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THE TIMES

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BACK PAIN

Your GP's advice can seriously damage your health Part 2 of our series PAGE 12



Credit where it's due

Libby Purves sticks up for the Duchess PAGE 14

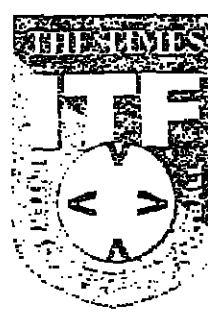


Two for one flights

Token, PAGE 19 PLUS win Virgin flights and vouchers with Accumulator, PAGE 38

The Maxwell maze

Lord Donaldson letter, PAGE 15 Melvyn Marckus on the missing millions, PAGE 28



PLAY THE £50,000 GAME

The leading team managers PAGES 20-21

'We had to make the right decision in the interests of our child'

Harman 'will not quit over son's school'

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

HARRIET HARMAN fought back against an avalanche of hypocrisy charges last night with an emotional defence of her decision to send her son to a grammar school. She said she was acting in the child's best interests and would not be resigning from the Shadow Cabinet.

Ms Harman's choice of school for her son, Joseph, has torn her party in two in the worst internal row of Tony Blair's leadership. But the Shadow Health Secretary insisted: "I have not discussed my resignation. I am not going to be resigning. I do not think my position is untenable."

She told Channel 4 News that she fully supported Labour's opposition to selective schools, but she added: "Our choice that we are having to make here and now makes no difference to our education policy. I support our education policy, but I think most parents in the country will understand that we had to make the right decision for our child and that we would have been less than human if we had done anything else."

Like tens of thousands of other parents whose children were leaving junior school, they had looked at what was in the state system and worked out which would be the right school for their child. "We knew it would be controversial. It was difficult."

"We had to make the right decision in the interests of our child. Just as I want excellence in education for my child, we want excellence in education for all children. We have not moved him out of the state system. We are not in favour of selection."

The controversy completely overshadowed Labour's planned assault yesterday on the Government's plans for nursery school vouchers, giving the Tories a huge boost. Few Labour MPs were prepared to back her decision and two Shadow Cabinet members said privately that her position was untenable. Gerry Steinberg resigned as chairman of

the backbench Labour education committee and Joan Lester went close to a public attack.

Mr Blair, however, supported Ms Harman. His aides made plain that he did not regard it a "hanging offence" and thought that colleagues should keep a sense of proportion.

Mr Blair made no effort to persuade Ms Harman to change her mind when she told him that Joseph was to go to St Olave's School in Orpington rather than to the local comprehensive in Southwark. Others in the leadership learnt of her decision several weeks ago.

Mr Blair, who himself came under fire for sending his son Euan to the opted-out London

Ms Harman feels that, above all else, she is a mother and is determined to do the right thing by her children

Mary Ann Sieghart, page 13

Matthew Parris..... Page 2
My school bell..... Page 2
Harman under fire..... Page 8
Leading article..... Page 15

Oratory school, was reported to feel strongly that it was no part of his job to tell his colleagues how to live their lives. But nor would there be any change in Labour's education policy.

Ms Harman, who is recovering from bronchitis, spent most of yesterday under siege from the press at the London home she shares with her husband Jack Dromey, a transport union official. But she emerged late in the afternoon to go to the Commons to see Mr Blair and other colleagues, before giving her television interview.

That came after a day of agonised soul-searching among Labour MPs. Depart-

ing from her overseas development brief, Miss Lester pointedly issued a press release underlining her support for comprehensive education, saying it was not "a matter of political correctness but of political conviction and principle". She backed the opposition of David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, to selection by academic test or parental interview.

Another front-bencher said that Ms Harman was guilty of "premier league hypocrisy".

Ms Harman was, however, reported by friends to be in a "leisty" mood as she complained to the Press Complaints Commission alleging that Joseph had been harassed as he set out for school.

In the Commons, Gillian Shephard, claimed that Labour's schools policy was in complete disarray. "Nothing now can hide the basic contradiction and deep division at the heart of Labour education policy," the Education Secretary said. "Choice and diversity for some members of the Labour front bench but clearly stated and of repeated policy intentions to remove that choice and diversity from everyone else."

Mr Blunkett suggested that Labour was in "total unity" on its policy. "Every parent in every community, whether they are an MP or not, should have the right to exercise a preference for their child to go to the school of their choice," he said. "That preference should not be blocked by any mechanism that prevents a child entering that school, either on the basis of its prior attainment at the age of 11 or on an interview with its parents. That is why we are against selection and will remain against selection."

But Mr Steinberg said that he was resigning as a matter of protest and principle. "because I believe the action taken by Harriet Harman is in direct contradiction to Labour's policy on comprehensive education and somebody had to make a stand".

Continued on page 2, col 7



Harriet Harman leaves home to see Tony Blair and defend her choice of school

Grammar schools to top 'Oscars'

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GRAMMAR schools will dominate a list of 30 secondaries singled out for praise for their outstanding performance by Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools.

The Times has learnt that more than half of the schools which will receive the accolade next month, known as "Oscars" by school inspectors, are drawn from the small

band of selective schools. The findings will boost campaigns for selective education. One in three grammar schools inspected last year was judged by inspectors to be outstanding, compared with about one in 55 comprehensives.

Inspectors judged schools on all aspects of their performance and allowed for the different standards of pupils on admission. To be judged outstanding, a school had to be awarded top inspection

marks in four main categories: examination standards; quality of teaching and learning; social, moral and cultural development; and efficiency.

Fifty-three of the 902 secondary schools inspected in 1994-95 are selective. Only 161 grammars remain among the 4,000 secondary schools in England and Wales.

This is the first time Mr Woodhead has identified the best state schools. Last year he merely named the 52 most

Continued on page 2, col 5

Princess loses last senior aide as her private secretary quits

By ALAN HAMILTON AND JOANNA BALE

THE Princess of Wales lost the last of her senior aides yesterday when Patrick Jephson, her private secretary and head of her office, resigned. He told the Princess of his decision yesterday morning, and by afternoon had gone.

Mr Jephson, 39, a former Royal Navy officer, had worked for the Princess since 1988, first as an equerry and later as an assistant private secretary. The Princess appointed him her private secretary and head of her office in 1992, at the time her separation from the Prince of Wales was announced.

The resignation coincides with the disclosure of further tribulation for the Princess, who has received a demand from lawyers that she withdraw remarks she allegedly made at a private party at Christmas, concerning Victoria Legge-Bourke, the Prince of Wales's personal assistant.

Last night Mr Jephson, who is married with two young children, denied suggestions that his sudden departure was a result of the Princess's failure to inform him in advance that she had recorded a revealing and controversial interview for the BBC Panorama programme in November. "It has been a great honour to work for the Princess of Wales, and I have very much enjoyed the challenges of the last eight years. With a growing family, however, I feel that I must now be free to consider a new career path," he said.

He added that he had always planned to step down sometime during 1996. He did not have another job to walk into, but he was considering a number of possibilities.

Buckingham Palace said last night that the process of finding a replacement for Mr Jephson had begun. The Princess has now lost all her

official household, including private secretary, press secretary, and full-time police protection officer. She retains only the services of two junior secretaries at St James's Palace, but is expected shortly to appoint an outside media consultant to handle her press relations.

The Palace said that it would help out the Princess with day-to-day administrative matters; her programme of official public engagements is currently light, but she still receives a lot of mail.

Despite Mr Jephson's protestations, and his claim that his departure had been "perfectly amiable", there is no doubt that an atmosphere of increasing isolation and strain accompanied by the sound of legal knives sharpening now surrounds the Princess and her immediate entourage. The Panorama interview caused deep dismay among her staff, who were kept in the dark until the last moment, and it led to the resignation of Geoffrey Crawford, her press secretary. Mr Crawford let it be known that he found his position as her official spokesman untenable, and he returned to his principal job as deputy press secretary to the Queen.

But there are now even stormier waters on the horizon. Mr Jephson has left at the highly sensitive moment when legal discussions on the Prince and Princess's divorce are likely to begin, with the prospect of acrimony in the air. Palace sources suggested last night that the Princess was happy for Mr Jephson to leave at once rather than in the middle of difficult negotiations.

His last big task was to shepherd the Princess on a visit to Argentina in November.

Continued on page 3, col 7

Ashdown's terms for Labour pact

Paddy Ashdown yesterday made electoral reform the price for working together with Labour to secure at least a decade of reforming and modernising government.

In his latest overture towards Tony Blair, the Liberal Democrat leader, who was speaking in London, set out plans for a modern Great Reform Bill, including plans for a new voting system to be put to the British people in a referendum. Page 2

Lucy the bull terrier is cleared for doing what a dog's got to do

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN ENGLISH Bull Terrier which killed a cat was freed yesterday after a magistrate ruled that she was only doing what dogs do.

Three-year-old Lucy had spotted the pregnant cat, Fluffy, in a shrubbery, chased her across a field and into Dawn Turner's back garden, where she picked her up, shook her like a rag doll and chewed at her.

Mrs Turner was horrified and, fearing for her four children, called the police. They went on to issue a civil summons on her behalf under the 1871 Dogs Act.

Under the Act, a dog that is dangerous and not kept under proper control may be ordered to be destroyed. But even the owner of the cat was against imposing the death sentence on Lucy, and yesterday Elizabeth Whitmore, the Bexley magistrate, agreed that the

dog was not a danger to the public. She also ordered defence costs against Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police commissioner.

Afterwards, Lucy's owners, Lisa O'Brien and Michael Collins were jubilant, but he said the case had been a waste of taxpayers' money. "If Lucy had been found guilty, it would have been a death

sentence for all dogs," Mr Collins said. "If she had been a poodle this would never have come so far. This proves what I love my cats, but I've got five to replace her."

Mrs Turner, who is eight months' pregnant, had told the court that she had seen Lucy holding Fluffy in her mouth. "The dog was shaking the cat like a rag doll. I was frightened and kept thinking of my children. I love dogs, but it's a natural instinct for a mother to be concerned."

But Trevor Cooper, for the defence, said a dog should not be deemed dangerous just because it chased or killed a cat. "I concede Lucy frightened Mrs Turner, but the test in law isn't what Mrs Turner felt. It is a matter of common knowledge that dogs chase cats. You can't find a dog dangerous for doing what dogs naturally do."

"You are aware of the saying, 'fighting like cat and dog', it's in their nature."

Lucy's owner, a jubilant Lisa O'Brien, gives her a hug



Lucy's owner, a jubilant Lisa O'Brien, gives her a hug

Birth of planets still a mystery

First results from Galileo's probe, which plunged to its destruction in Jupiter's atmosphere on December 7, showed less water, helium and neon than astronomers had expected.

The data were released yesterday by NASA, the US space agency, and have left astronomers puzzled over how planets are formed. The lack of water clouds meant that the probe found only about a tenth as much lightning on Jupiter as on Earth. Page 11

Daimler severs Fokker lifeline

Directors of Fokker, the Dutch plane-maker, met to decide whether to seek court protection from creditors after its parent, Daimler-Benz, cut off its cash lifeline.

Closure of the company would be a blow for Short Brothers in Belfast, which builds wings and other parts for the Fokker jets, and for Rolls-Royce, which supplies the Tay engines. Page 23

School Fees and Further Education Costs



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ARTS 37-39
CHESS & BRIDGE 40
COURT & SOCIAL 16

SPORT 40-42, 44
BODY AND MIND 12
LAW REPORT 19

SHA

Blunkett spared unnerving sight as nightmare becomes reality

EVERYONE has nightmares. We may be filing into the school examination room, knowing nothing of the subject, we may be trembling in the stage footlights, ignorant of our lines or facing a lion. Terrors such as these can grip and shake us until, bolt upright in a cold sweat and screaming "Help!", we see the grey dawn outside and the tangled bedclothes around us, and, with that sweet, creeping sense of relief, realise it was only a dream.

For David Blunkett yesterday, there was no grey dawn, no tangled bedclothes, no relief. Unfortunately, it was not a dream.

He really was Labour's chief education spokesman. He really was on his feet at the dispatch box in the Commons chamber. All those jeers came from real Tories. Up in the press gallery (could he hear our pencils scratching?) sat row upon row of real reporters, smiling.

And this really was a debate on education. Yes, the nightmare was true. He, David Blunkett, was the man who

had said: "Read my lips: no selection." He was the man who had written: "I'm having no truck with left-wing, middle class parents who preach one thing, then take their children outside the area."

He was the man at whom Michael Brown (Conservative, Brigg & Cleethorpes) was now screaming. How does he square that, with what she's doing today?

"She," of course, was Harriet Harman. Mr Brown, who told MPs he had failed his 11 plus and been educated at a



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

secondary modern school, was reverting to playground thuggery such as young Euan Blair is unlikely to learn at the Oratory, and master Joe Dromey may miss at St Olave's.

It seems a pity that MPs seek to airlift their own children out of the worst types of school as these institutions would be excellent prepara-

tion for the House of Commons. If the political classes went to urban jungle schools and the voters went to county grammar schools, it might work well.

Mr Blunkett is blind. He has tried for years to remain consistent in what he says. Undetermined last year by Tony Blair, backstabbed over the weekend by Ms Harman,

pecked at for an hour by the sparrow-like Education Secretary Gillian Shephard in yesterday's debate, jostled by his own backbenchers and snarled and torn at now by the demented raccoon from Cleethorpes, what was he feeling? The rug had been well and truly pulled from under him.

I asked myself (the question is meant seriously) if, being blind and missing one of the senses by which your fellow men seem to communicate with each other, there are moments — whole weeks,

even — when you wonder whether you might be the object of some monstrous cosmic conspiracy?

It is a conspiracy in which diverse voices from sources which you alone cannot see taunt you with false friendship, cheating promises and duff information: a pantomime of deceiving noises in the dark. You await the hour when some kind Prospero halts the play and explains to you where all the voices have been coming from.

In fact, Mr Blunkett put in a plucky and controlled perfor-

mance, little helped by front and back benches around him scowling, tittering, guffawing and gesturing neurotically.

Only a powerful left hook which Roy Hattersley landed square on the government front bench's chin (it was about Tory indecision on Church schools) offered the Opposition any relief. Watching the Labour Party, seasick and squabbling, falling apart in the chamber after one political reverse, was unnerving.

It was a sight David Blunkett, at least, was spared.

Clarke's warning over split on currency

FROM CHARLES BREMER IN BRUSSELS

KENNETH Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pressed home Britain's worries about the impact of European monetary union on the countries that stay out yesterday and lamented that Britain was not yet ready for a "calm and well-informed debate" on the single currency.

Mr Clarke was on the defensive at a Brussels ministerial meeting after sniping from Conservative Eurosceptics over a letter on EMU which he had written to Lamberto Dini, Italy's caretaker Prime Minister and current President of the European Council. The Chancellor's critics faulted him on his regular charge of excessive eagerness to preserve Britain's EMU option.

However the letter merely expanded on the argument made by John Major when he persuaded fellow leaders in Madrid last month to launch a study of the potentially damaging impact of EMU.

There was a danger, Mr Clarke told Signor Dini, that the "ins" — EMU members — would become a "club within a club". It was vital to prevent a "major political and economic gap opening up between ins and at least some 'outs'".

In his usual ebullient mood, Mr Clarke told his colleagues it was vital that Britain remained involved in the preparations for monetary union, due in 1999, whether it went ahead on schedule or not.

Tory damage cannot be repaired by single party, says Lib Dem leader

Ashdown offers Blair partnership — but at a price

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

PADDY ASHDOWN yesterday made electoral reform the price for working with Labour to secure at least a decade of reforming and modernising government. In his latest overture towards Tony Blair, the Liberal Democrat leader set out plans for a modern Great Reform Bill, including a new voting system to be put to the people in a referendum.

He also outlined a tough policy agenda on education, welfare, health, the environment and Europe to be addressed by the new government. In a new policy departure, he called for the public to be consulted over which health services should be provided free from general taxation and which should be paid for.

Mr Ashdown's "bottom line" demand on proportional representation is the one that Mr Blair may find hardest to accept. Although his speech in London did not spell it out, Mr Ashdown's aides are making plain that he would expect a Blair government to campaign for a "yes" vote in a referendum on PR. At present, Mr Blair is not convinced of the need for change.

Without an overhaul of the constitution, the other changes the Liberal Democrats wanted

could not work and would not be completed. Mr Ashdown said. "Replacing Britain's outdated, secretive and confrontational institutions with new dynamic institutions which will become the engine room for change and improvement is now absolutely vital for Britain's success in the next century."

In spite of opposition from within his party, and the distraction of a leaked internal document containing a sharp assessment of its weaknesses, Mr Ashdown was making another cautious step towards a potential post-election deal with Labour.

He did so by trying to look beyond the next election and giving warning that unless opposition politicians now confronted people with the hard choices needed to put Britain right, there was a risk of a "one-parliament failure" and the return to power of a virulent right-wing Conservative Party four years later.

His message to Labour was that it could not win two terms and carry out a broad programme of reform without his help. Mr Ashdown pointed to the fate of Bill Clinton's administration in the United States, which had fast lost popularity. Modern voters

changed their minds with amazing speed, he said.

A "tactical victory" over the Tory Government was not enough. "What I believe we need is a new kind of politics. I am going to call it partnership politics." He said that repairing the damage of the past 17 years and restoring trust in government was an immense task which could not be completed in a single parliament.

He proposed a new culture in British politics in which "parties which are different, distinctive and independent offer separate choices at the ballot box, but are prepared to work together where they agree and they believe it is in the nation's interest to do so."

He insisted that partnership politics did not mean pacts and did not require coalition. "It is as easy and as effective for parties to work together across the floor of the House as it is to form a partnership on the government benches."

Mr Ashdown set out his key policy demands:

□ Education: priority investment of £2 billion as the start of a "decade of investment", plus pre-school education for all three and four year olds.
□ Welfare: refashioning of the



Mr Ashdown set proportional representation as the bottom line for Tony Blair

system to encourage people to work in different and flexible ways, and to reward saving and thrift. Liberal Democrats recognise not only the failings but the expense of the system.
□ Europe: Mr Ashdown said that the division in the "directionless government" was damaging Britain. But

"however much both other parties equivocate on Europe the Liberal Democrats will not waver. I want us to be the rock on which people can depend, the guarantee of Britain's future in Europe."

□ Health: the next government should open up the health service further, making

it accountable to the local community. Then the NHS would have to find ways of engaging the public in deciding which services should be provided free and which services on the margins people would have to pay for.

Schools row, page 8

NEWS IN BRIEF

Proposed Academy of Sport rejected

The Prime Minister's plan for a British Academy of Sport has been rejected by the national governing bodies and elite competitors.

Speaker after speaker at a consultation meeting in London yesterday called for the £100 million lottery funds to be put into regional training centres with a co-ordinating hub instead of a single academy.

Although all the written responses from the national governing bodies have yet to be completed, Sports Council officials privately agree that the idea of a single green field site for the academy is "dead in the water".

Talent funds, page 5

Church attacks

The Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal Basil Hume have written to the Prime Minister expressing alarm at government plans to cut benefits to asylum seekers. The intervention of the leaders of the Church of England and Roman Catholic Church was disclosed yesterday as MPs called for a taskforce to be created to track down fraudsters who abuse the asylum system. A spokesman for Cardinal Hume said: "Contact at the highest level is continuing."

Murder charge

Khalid Mahmood, 38, appeared before magistrates in Birmingham charged with murdering Imtiaz Begum, 35, his estranged wife, outside the city's New Street rail station. Mr Mahmood, of Montpellier, Bristol, was remanded in custody until January 25. Four of the couple's children, a son and three daughters, have been found dead.

Hostage hopes

The Foreign Office welcomed the release of one of the 14 hostages held by separatist guerrillas in a jungle in Indonesian New Guinea as a "positive sign". The handing over of Jacobus Wandiba, an Indonesian, to missionary mediators, has raised hopes that the other captives, including four young Britons, may be freed within days.

Ulster arms plan

John Major was last night expecting to receive proposals on decommissioning terrorist weapons in Northern Ireland prepared by an international commission headed by George Mitchell, the former US senator. It is hoped the report will break the deadlock in the quest for peace. A Commons statement is expected soon, possibly tomorrow.

ITN ballot

Staff at ITN, which supplies news to ITV and Channel 4, have voted by more than two to one in favour of taking industrial action over pay. The National Union of Journalists and Bectu, the technicians union, meet today to discuss what form their action should take.

Former MP's son recalls torment by local children

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE son of a former Labour MP came to the defence of Harriet Harman last night and claimed he still suffered nightmares about the insults he endured at school in his father's constituency.

Nicholas Parkyn, 41, said that as the son of an MP he had been expected to spend ten years of his childhood setting an exemplary standard to do credit to his father. He totally understood why Ms Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary and MP for Peckham, was sending her son to a school outside her local authority catchment area.

"For an MP's child, equality is out of the question. The child is marked. You might as well have a green face. The other kids have a handle on you. Being kids, they use it. You become the butt of all the malcontent in the school. It's only a handful of kids. But that is all it takes," said Mr Parkyn.

His father Brian was MP for Bedford between 1966-70, and fought the seat in 1964 and October 1974. Nicholas was at Bedford Modern, a direct grant primary school, when his father entered the Commons. "Then I was known as a slob. When I passed my 11-plus, and went to

the Pilgrim School, I became a snob," he said.

A far higher proportion of Conservative MPs than Labour MPs have their children educated outside the constituency, often in the private sector. But, according to Mr Parkyn it was a sort of "badge of honour" for Labour MPs to put their children in a local state school.

Mr Parkyn claimed he was harshly punished for the slightest misdemeanours because of who he was. "Justice had to be seen to be done," he said. "It is hard to explain the continued trauma of an MP's child while in the constituency. Laughed at in the playground. Hissed at on the hustings."

"The kids would have a go at me because of stories about my father in the local press. Or because the [Labour] Government was unpopular. The most familiar refrain was: 'my mum and dad say it's all Nicholas Parkyn's dad's fault.'"

"I liken it to being marooned on a desert island. There was food and clothes but no equable company. It begins when your parent is selected as candidate and goes on years after they have lost their seat."

Mr Parkyn, an unemployed

project manager, urged all MPs to educate their children outside the constituency. "It avoids the prospect of them becoming a goldfish in a pool of piranhas."

Mr Parkyn described relations with his father today as "cordial". He had one sister who had learned from his mistakes.

"I am not the only casualty of this torture. I would not wish the misery of my schooldays on anyone else. Harriet Harman is being criticised because the school she is sending her son to is ten miles away. She is right to be criticised: ten miles is not far enough."

His father, who returned to the commercial sector after he lost his seat, also stood by Miss Harman. Mr Parkyn, 72, said: "My son found it very difficult. He was bullied at school. I believed that I should live in the constituency. It put a great burden on the family. If I had my time again I would either not live in the constituency or I would send my children to a boarding school on the other side of the country. I have absolute sympathy for Harriet Harman. The media is even more intrusive now. She is putting her family first."

Grammar school 'Oscars'

Continued from page 1 improved schools. A senior official of Ofsted, the inspection agency, said: "In the past we have been far too hung up about hiding achievement and, in some cases, lack of achievement. I cannot see any reason not to do this as long as we also acknowledge the other group which are good and improving."

He added: "We hope this will give a clear signal to parents, teachers and the public that we do have some very good schools in this country and that they can be identified by inspection. We want to celebrate that success and no doubt for many of them it will be something they use at every opportunity."

The agency is expecting a backlash from those schools

which feel they have just missed out, which is why the final list is still being checked and double-checked.

Next month's report will also identify about 60 improving schools and excellent primary and nursery schools and very effective special schools, naming around about 180 overall. None of the schools chosen for an "Oscar" has yet been informed but one leading contender is Kendrick Girls' School in Reading.

Inspectors said the school was outstanding and had achieved "very high standards in all aspects of its work". They added: "The education provided allows pupils to achieve excellence in both their academic performance and their personal development."

Minister 'will not quit'

Continued from page 1 Doug McAvoy, General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said that he had every sympathy with Mr Steinberg's decision to step down and warned Labour chiefs that his union would oppose any shift in Mr Blunkett's stated policy on selective schools.

Ann Clwyd, a former member of the Shadow Cabinet, also criticised Mr Harman. "I have every appreciation of Harriet's abilities," she said. "She is a very able and talented person. But I think on this particular issue, she is wrong, she is incorrect, and should not have done it."

Tessa Jowell, the Shadow Minister for Women, came to Ms Harman's aid, however, saying: "As a parent and a

politician, if you have to face a choice between looking your son in the eye and saying that he can't go to the school that he wants to with his friends or face the disapproval of your colleagues the only course of action is to do what is best for your child."

Others who backed Ms Harman said that Mr Blair could not afford to lose her because it would send the wrong message to the public and she was a valuable member of the Shadow Cabinet.

Some agreed that her move was inconsistent with the party's position on grammar schools, but said it was the policy rather than Ms Harman that should go.

"The policy is a fudge," one moderniser said. "We cannot restrict choice."

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Britain 'powerless' to act

Education chiefs send textbooks to 13-year-old bride

BY BILL FROST AND CAROL MIDGLEY

THE Foreign Office said yesterday that it was virtually powerless to bring home a 13-year-old British girl who has gone through a marriage ceremony with an 18-year-old Turkish waiter she met on holiday.

Unless Sarah Cook's parents lodge a complaint or ask for assistance in bringing her back to Britain in Essex, neither the Foreign Office nor Essex Social Services can act. The council's education department has sent her textbooks.

The marriage is not legal but Sarah's parents, Jackie and Adrian Cook, have given their approval to the union and attended the religious service. A Turkish Embassy official in London said couples could not normally marry until they were 18. With parental consent, the age limit was 17 for boys and, with a judge's permission, 15 for girls.

Rona Iybay, a professor of Turkish law at the University of Ankara, said: "Under no circumstances can a 13-year-old child have sexual relations without it being deemed statutory rape under Turkish law." But he said it was unlikely police would act unless a complaint was made by the girl or her parents. The Turkish authorities could take action only if it was believed that Musa Komeagae, Sarah's partner, had abducted her.

Mr Komeagae, 18, proposed to Sarah three days after meeting her during her holiday in Antalya in southern Turkey. She was then 12 years old. When she returned to Britain the couple exchanged love letters and Sarah eventually persuaded her mother to take her back to Turkey.

Last October she flew back again alone and admits this was the first time the couple had sex. They live with Mr Komeagae's parents in Kahrmanmaraş.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said: "The responsibility for this minor rests with her parents and we would only act with their consent. We have offered them every assistance. If there was anything wrong under Turkish law our authorities over there would be involved, although the jurisdiction would probably rest with Turkey."

Mr and Mrs Cook were being guarded at their home yesterday by representatives of The Sun, which is reported to have paid £20,000 for the family's story. The couple refused to answer questions put to them by other newspaper reporters.

Earlier Mrs Cook, 39, defended her decision to allow the wedding to take place. "I don't care what people think about her marrying, because she is loved and happy," she said. Mr Cook, 42, said: "Musa is a great kid. He clearly adores her and looks after her."

Mike Leadbetter, director of social services for Essex, said: "We shall be wanting to talk to the family as soon as possible. We shall ask them if they think this is right and proper for a 13-year-old. Apart from anything else, moving from England to Turkey, which is a different culture, is a big step even for an adult."

Social workers were made aware of Sarah's case last October when she failed to return to school after the half-term holiday. Richard Snelling, her headmaster at Tabor High, said: "We heard she had gone to Turkey to stay with a family, but no more. It is not surprising that we were anxious about the fact that she was not attending school."

"We alerted our education welfare officer and the social services for Essex, said: "We shall be wanting to talk to the family as soon as possible. We shall ask them if they think this is right and proper for a 13-year-old. Apart from anything else, moving from England to Turkey, which is a different culture, is a big step even for an adult."

On the slightly run-down and dreary estate where the Cooks live, neighbours and passers-by expressed shock and concern that Sarah had been allowed to marry a man whom she had first met while still only 12.

"Her parents must be absolutely mad," said one woman whose daughter is also a pupil at Tabor High.

The marriage has reportedly caused a family feud. Mr Cook's brother Peter has told the couple he thinks they are "mad" and that the marriage is "immoral".

The brothers, who work together, are no longer on speaking terms.

Mr Snelling, who said yesterday that Sarah's "marriage" had shocked the school, said that she returned home briefly at Christmas before travelling back to Turkey. "Clearly our view is that a 13-year-old should be receiving full-time education until she is 16 or 18. We are very concerned that she is not and have expressed that view to her parents."

"We were never told that her family had put her love life before her education. We are very worried — Sarah is so young."

Asked yesterday to explain why no earlier attempt had been made to bring Sarah back to Britain and prevent the marriage, Colin Davis, spokesman for Essex County Council, said there had been no reason for concern at first. "We understood she was living with a family. Sarah went of her own free will and there was no evidence that she was at any risk."

The county's education department has been sending school textbooks to the girl. "It is so she can keep up with her schooling," Mr Davis said.

The landlord of the public house used by Sarah's father has banned him from the premises. "It is disgraceful and the whole neighbourhood is outraged," Dave Wightman, who runs the Tabor Arms, said. "I don't know anyone who agrees with it."

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Lorry driver fined £2,000 over girl's death

BY TIM JONES

AN AUSTRIAN lorry driver was fined £2,000 yesterday for three motoring offences after a newspaper delivery girl was knocked from her bicycle and killed. Amy Durling, 15, was hit by a 40-ton lorry last Thursday as she rode past a roundabout near her home in Herne Bay, Kent.

Steven Durling, 41, her father, said after the case: "I don't bear the driver any malice. I now know he didn't mean it. We are glad he admitted it. He didn't stand a chance. What would be the point of bearing a grudge? It won't change anything."

Canterbury Magistrates' Court was told that after the collision Herbert Lagler, 25, stopped his lorry several hundred yards beyond the roundabout and removed the wreckage of the bicycle before continuing his journey.

He was arrested later in the day in Wakefield where he told police that he was unaware that an accident had taken place.

Kevin Maloney, for the prosecution, said the accident happened before sunrise and it was not certain whether Amy was using her cycle lights. "None of the witnesses recall seeing the lights so it is not known one way or another because the lights were completely destroyed," he said.

Amy, he said, was observing the correct procedure as she entered the roundabout and signalled to leave it. "While crossing the roundabout at low speed the defendant's vehicle struck the rear wheel of the bicycle. The bicycle and the rider would appear to

have fallen to the ground and the lorry drove over the bicycle and Amy," Mr Maloney added. "It is not possible to say whether or not he should have been aware that a collision had taken place, although he should have been, as witnesses who were further away saw her on the roundabout."

Mr Maloney said Herr Lagler had arrived at the port of Ramsgate earlier in the day and was driving in convoy with another lorry. Mr Maloney said: "When he was arrested, he indicated that he had heard a noise from beneath the vehicle which he thought was a mechanical problem. He spoke to the second driver and they formed the view that the bicycle must have fallen from another vehicle."

Tim Townsend, for the defence, said Herr Lagler had suffered from a

momentary lapse of concentration. He said: "He failed to see the young lady although he was wide awake and well rested. But it was dark, and she was wearing dark clothing. One witness has referred to her as being a silhouette."

He added: "This is not a case of hit and run. The driver was extremely shocked to hear what he was alleged to have done and he has great sorrow for the young lady's family. Words will not adequately express his regret."

Herr Lagler, who sobbed in court, admitted careless driving, failing to stop after an accident and failing to report an accident. He was remanded in custody for 28 days or until the fines are paid.

Law, page 31



Victoria Legge-Bourke, the Prince's assistant, leaves her London home yesterday



The Princess of Wales with Patrick Jephson

Princess's private secretary resigns

Continued from page 1

ber, only days after her Panorama interview. It was then that rumours started to circulate that he might resign.

Since then, storm clouds have continued to gather. Lawyers acting on behalf of Miss Legge-Bourke have written to the Princess demanding a retraction of "false allegations" she is said to have made. It was disclosed yesterday.

The Princess is alleged to have made hurtful comments about Miss Legge-Bourke at a staff Christmas party held by herself and the Prince.

Miss Legge-Bourke's solicitor, the leading libel lawyer Peter Carter-Ruck, is reported to have said: "I have written to Diana's solicitors Mishcon de Reya requesting that these false allegations be privately withdrawn and recognised to be totally untrue."

The comments, made dur-

ing the party at the Lanesborough Hotel in Mayfair, London, on December 14, were said to have left Miss Legge-Bourke close to tears, and so shocked that she slumped into a chair and had to be comforted by the Prince's valet.

Six days later Mr Carter-Ruck issued a statement to newspapers about unfounded allegations being circulated that were, he said, "a gross reflection" on Miss Legge-Bourke's moral character.

The incident appears to underline a growing tension between the women which began when Miss Legge-Bourke became a personal assistant to the Prince and a virtual nanny to the couple's children Prince William and Prince Harry. Miss Legge-Bourke, 30, refused to comment yesterday, as did Anthony Julius, the Princess's solicitor.

German spy trio 'kept MI6 cash'

BY ROGER BOYES AND MICHAEL EVANS

THREE German spies are under investigation over allegations that they benefited financially from a covert operation to obtain material about the Russian Army which was shared with Britain's Secret Intelligence Service.

SIS, commonly known as MI6, is understood to be helping the German authorities after clearing up an initial suspicion that the three officers had been trying to sell secrets to Britain.

The three officers of the German BND — the equivalent to MI6 — worked in an undercover office in Nuremberg, collecting information about the Russian military forces in eastern Germany.

MI6 and BND have always

worked closely together and there was understood to be a longstanding arrangement under which material obtained by the German intelligence service about the Russian Army in eastern Germany was shared and jointly financed.

The BND officers are said to have failed to hand over money provided by MI6 for the cost of an intelligence operation which was to be shared between the services.

A court in South Africa ruled yesterday that Paul Grechan, a former MI5 agent and director of the arms company Ordtech, should face an extradition hearing. He is wanted in America on charges of illegally selling artillery fuse components to Iraq.

Householder in clear after killing

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A BUSINESSMAN is to escape prosecution over the death of an intruder during a fight at his home.

The Crown Prosecution Service announced yesterday that it would not be bringing any charge against the householder because of insufficient evidence.

Miklos Baugartner, 54, told police he had been attacked by Robert Ingham when he caught him inside his home at Ockbrook, Derbyshire, last month. Mr Ingham, 22, a joiner with no previous criminal convictions, died after the fight, which began inside the house and then spilt on to a path.

Police officers found Mr Ingham, of Normanton, Derbyshire, slumped on the doorstep of Mr Baugartner's home with cuts to his face and a broken neck. A post-mortem

examination found that Mr Ingham died from a neck injury consistent with Mr Baugartner's description of the fight.

Mr Baugartner's wife Linda said yesterday that the family was pleased with the decision of the Crown Prosecution Service. "It is a big, big relief," she said.

A spokeswoman for the service said a police file had been submitted to its Derby office last week and Anna Zimand, the Derby Crown prosecutor, decided no action would be taken against Mr Baugartner. "The evidence has been considered and it is insufficient to justify any criminal proceedings against Mr Baugartner," the spokeswoman said.

After the incident Mr Baugartner, a businessman who lays tennis courts, broke

down in tears at a press conference. He said that the experience had left him scarred for life. He was treated in hospital for an injured hand and shock following the struggle.

Police investigating the incident, the latest in a number of cases in which homeowners have used force to protect their property, found signs of a forced entry at the house. Mr Baugartner was not arrested but spent three hours being questioned on New Year's Day about the incident. He said later: "I was terrified. I have broken down several times and am shaking like a leaf. I am frightened — my life is shattered."

The law allows the use of "reasonable force" to defend persons or property or to prevent a crime. But there have been differing views



Baugartner: incident 'had scarred his life'

among judges, politicians and the public about the definition of "reasonable".

Over the years, case law had defined that it may be reasonable to make a pre-emptive strike in self-defence.

An inquest into the death of Mr Ingham, a single man, will be held later this year.

RUC man 'framed son for murders'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN RUC officer who shot his wife and two children as they lay sleeping blamed the killings on his dead son, a court was told yesterday.

Police found John Torney's wife, Linda, 33, daughter Emma, 10, and son John, 13, in their beds with a single gunshot wound to their heads. Mr Torney's revolver lay beside his son and the RUC man said the teenager had gone "clean mad" and killed his mother and sister before turning the gun on himself.

But Belfast Crown Court was told that the 40-year-old officer was infatuated with another woman and unhappy with his marriage.

Torney denies murdering his wife and children at their home in Cookstown in Decem-

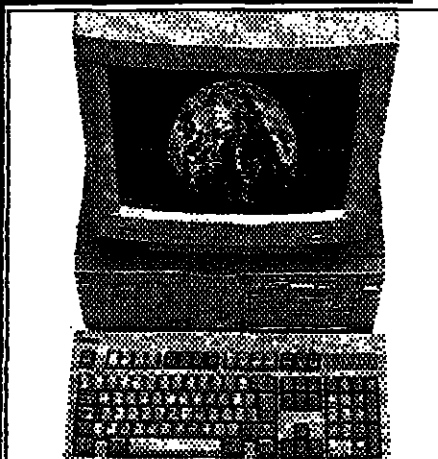
ber 1994. He gave police two notes in which his son allegedly apologised for his actions, blaming arguments between his parents and himself and his sister over the family dog Sooty, which had been given away.

However, John Creaney, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr Torney had wanted to start a new life with a fellow woman officer.

If Mr Torney were right in what he claimed, Mr Creaney said, then he was "the most sinned against man you can ever imagine".

But if he were the killer as alleged, then "he was capable of the most diabolical enterprise, and the most diabolical framing of a child". The trial continues.

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Police hail success of weapons amnesty

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A JUNGLE spear 5ft long, samurai swords, and a blood-stained kitchen knife were among more than 37,500 weapons handed in during an amnesty on knives, police said yesterday.

As forces continued to count up the final tally of weapons, Maria Wallis, Assistant Chief Constable of Sussex and co-ordinator of the month-long campaign, said the amnesty had been a great success. "The numbers handed in have been beyond our expectations but success should not be measured in numbers alone," she said. The amnesty was announced after the death of Philip Lawrence, the northwest London headmaster stabbed outside his school last month.

Bins were left outside police stations so that weapons could be left anonymously, and by last night 42 out of 44 forces reported they had received 37,578 knives. The knives will be melted down and some could be turned into metal castings for the Jubilee Line on the London Underground.

The jungle spear was found by West Mercia officers, and the bloodstained knife was found in Birmingham. The amnesty had been on a "no questions asked" basis, police explained.

Other weapons seized by police round the country included butterfly knives, lock knives, flick knives, gravity knives, and knuckle-dusters. Staffordshire had the largest number of weapons surrendered with 4,804; the Metropolitan Police had 3,936. The last large-scale amnesty held in Britain was in Scotland in 1993 yielded 4,569 weapons.

The knives are not being routinely forensically examined but Mrs Wallis said this might happen if a force saw a weapon it was particularly concerned about and thought it "fitted the bill" for a serious offence. She said the amnesty had been for possession of a knife, not to commit crime.

Knife attacks had continued

despite the amnesty, but, Mrs Wallis pointed out, the removal from the streets of 30,000 weapons might have prevented assaults, even some murders.

Police are also discussing with the Home Office new legislation to give police the power of arrest for carrying a knife, and to make an offence carrying a knife sentence. Mrs Wallis said police welcomed other initiatives such as shopkeepers asking customers their age and why they wanted to buy a knife.

Mrs Wallis said: "We must start getting the message to young people that it's not macho to carry knives. We are trying to change the knife culture which suggests to young men in particular that they need to carry a blade."

Mrs Wallis said that although many people had knives for legitimate reasons, "more and more we have to be looking at people to provide us with their reasons for carrying them."

In Northumbria, as police examined 600 weapons collected during the amnesty, an officer described how his knifeproof vest had saved him from a 4in folding knife. Sergeant Tony McLeod had felt as if he was being punched during the scuffle at a house in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Last night Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, hailed the amnesty as an "excellent campaign" and reiterated the Government's support for Lady Olga Maitland's Private Member's Bill against knife-carrying. The Bill proposes up to two years' jail for people carrying knives without good reason.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, welcomed the Government's legislative plans but suggested other measures including a ban on the sale of knives to those under 16, controls on advertising by mail-order, and bans on military-style knives and swords.



Frances Lawrence, the headmaster's widow, read from I Corinthians while Unity Lawrence, 13, asked for the strength to overcome anger with love in a prayer she wrote

Family leads cathedral tribute to stabbed head

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE 13-YEAR-OLD daughter of Philip Lawrence, the headmaster stabbed to death, led a congregation of 2,000 at Westminster Cathedral yesterday praying "for the courage to stand up for what is true and to protest at what is untrue".

Unity Lawrence stood a few feet in front of the Duchess of Kent, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Jack Straw, his Labour Shadow, at the memorial service for the teacher killed while protecting a pupil outside school last month.

Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, who was joined by five bishops and 29 priests at the altar, said Mr Lawrence's

"principles and values are his legacy to the rest of us".

The tribute to Mr Lawrence was also a celebration of the talents his family had inherited from and shared with the Ampleforth and Cambridge educated teacher, who chose to work in the inner city.

Unity, in grey sweater and skirt, led the congregation in the bidding prayers she had composed herself. With unfaltering composure she read: "May we find the strength to overcome anger with love, ugliness with beauty, and evil with good."

Frances Lawrence, his widow, read St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. "Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust,

to hope, and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end."

Myfanwy Lawrence, 17, perched high and alone in the choir above the altar, filled the cathedral with the melancholy sound of a cello solo, *Le Cygne* from Saint-Saëns' *Carnaval des Animaux*. Also at the service were Mr and Mrs Lawrence's eldest daughter, Maroushka, 21, and their son Lucien, 8.

In his homily, Cardinal Hume appealed for a return to family values and emphasised that parents were the first and most important influence on a young person's formation.

"We were all shocked by the wanton killing of a man whom we instinctively knew to be not only good at his job, but a man who inspired

confidence and affection, a good man," he said.

"If we lament, and rightly so, violence on our streets and much else that is wrong, then let our society look to the quality of family life in the nation, and to the serious commitment which the marriage bond should be."

Afterwards Mr Lawrence's family invited guests, including students from his school, St George's in Maida Vale, northwest London, for tea in the cathedral hall.

Mr Howard expressed his condolences to Mrs Lawrence, who thanked him warmly for a letter he had sent to the family. She introduced Detective Constable Robin Lane, the family's police liaison

officer, to the Home Secretary saying: "He has been the most enormous support to our family."

Mr Howard then shook hands with Lucien. The boy said he knew that the Home Secretary had enjoyed reading *Beano* and *Dandy* as a child, and he now liked them too. The Home Secretary crouched on his knees and joined in an animated discussion with Lucien about the adventures of Corky the Cat.

Afterwards Mr Howard said: "It was a very moving service. Philip Lawrence and his family have set an example to the whole nation."

A 15-year-old boy has been charged with murdering Mr Lawrence and a boy aged 14 is accused of conspiracy to wound another 14-year-old boy.

Youth knifed in 'fist fight'

A TEENAGER died after being stabbed through the heart by a 15-year-old boy in front of a crowd of 30 onlookers, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Mark Osbourne, 16, bled to death from a single wound before a punch had been thrown in what was supposed to be a fist fight. David Calvert-Smith, for the prosecution, said there was a confrontation outside an off-licence in Harrow, when Osbourne challenged the boy, who cannot be named, to a fist fight. The pair met two hours

later in a nearby street. "By this time, no doubt in anticipation of a free fight to watch, a crowd of 30 people, both male and female, had gathered. It was agreed that no weapons would be used and some form of search took place."

Mr Calvert-Smith said. But as Osbourne aimed a punch at his opponent, the 15-year-old leapt forward and stabbed him in the chest. "Osbourne had a reputation as a strong young man who enjoyed fighting physically. He wasn't someone who carried a knife and he fancied his

chances in a fair fight with anyone," said Mr Calvert-Smith. "There can be no justification in what is supposed to be a fist fight in drawing a knife and stabbing someone."

He said after the stabbing "blood immediately spurted from the chest of Osbourne" who slumped to the ground. His attacker fled to nearby Harrow Underground station, leaving a trail of blood along the way. The 15-year-old defendant denies murder on August 8 last year. The trial was adjourned until today.

Legion to combine companies

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE Royal British Legion is to merge three companies, including the poppy factory where ex-servicemen make Remembrance Day poppies, because of rising costs. Colonel Terry English, the legion's controller of welfare, said that the merger of the poppy factory at Richmond, southwest London, with RBL Industries and Disabled Men's Industries (DMI), both based at Aylesford, Kent, would produce significant savings.

But he emphasised that the jobs of ex-Servicemen and disabled people would be safe. "What we are seeking to do is to ensure that our administration matches our funds," he said. "At present these companies employ 340 people but they have three chief executives and three boards. We need to rationalise."

Administrative staff will be offered other employment within the legion, although a small number of redundancies is possible. The legion was set up after the First World War to provide jobs for ex-Servicemen, many of whom were disabled, and their dependants.

Graham Downing, the legion's national chairman, said that the movement had a duty to make the most effective use of funds to help as many as possible of those in need.

Nigerian who died after drug arrest suffered 45 injuries

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A NIGERIAN who died after being arrested on suspicion of possessing drugs had up to 45 injuries on his body, an inquest jury was told yesterday. One police officer admitted kicking the man in the head.

Extra officers had been called in to help to detain Oluwashijibomi Lapite after a struggle developed when he left a club in Stoke Newington, northeast London.

Mr Lapite, 34, a painter and decorator who was seeking political asylum in Britain, died from injuries received from compression of the neck, the court was told. He had received between 35 and 45 injuries as police tried to arrest him for allegedly possessing crack cocaine.

Mr Lapite, of Homerton, was taken ill in a police van and was pronounced dead after being admitted to Homerton Hospital. St Pancras Coroner's Court was told. PC Paul Wright, one of the arresting officers, said he and a colleague were on plainclothes duty watching a club in which they suspected were people in possession of controlled drugs.

He said he saw a black male with his right hand closed by his side and his left hand open. "I saw him bend down and place something by the tree.

We pulled alongside of him. I said, 'Wait there, mate', which he did. I said, 'You are going to be searched for drugs, and I conducted the search, which was negative.'

The other officer picked up two clingfilm wraps from by the tree. PC Wright said after they arrested Mr Lapite, a struggle began and he ran off. "We caught up and I grabbed him by the neck. He then tried to hit me and pulled away from us. He was constantly fighting," PC Wright ended up on Mr Lapite's back. "During the struggle, my arm was getting tighter and tighter around his neck."

Stephen Ming Chan, the Coroner, interjected: "Thirty-five injuries on the deceased man are listed by one pathologist and 45 by another. Do you have any explanations?"

After a pause, PC Wright replied: "No sir." PC Andrew McCallum said that during the struggle Mr Lapite had attempted to bite him. "I kicked him in the head because I believed I was going to be subjected to a violent attack. I attempted to cuff his left hand but the man went back, kicking me in the chest, then he started to struggle. He was a very strong man."

The hearing continues.

HIV man posed as a doctor

An HIV-positive man who posed as a doctor was jailed for six months. Christopher Payne, 33, who was briefly a nurse in his native South Africa, gave vitamin injections, antidepressants, antibiotics and creams to up to 30 people. Payne, of Notting Hill Gate, London, admitted obtaining property by deception, common assault and theft. His barrister, Timothy Banks, told Southwark Crown Court he had acted from the highest moral motives. "Having been diagnosed HIV positive, he was an excellent counsellor and a good listener."

Writer's libel win

The writer Nigel Watts accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages in the High Court from *The Sunday Times* over its suggestion that he had plagiarised another author's unpublished manuscript for his first novel *The Life Game*, which won the 1999 Betty Trask award.

TV case deferred

The High Court reserved judgment on whether the Independent Television Commission's award of the licence for a fifth television channel to Channel 5 Broadcasting was unreasonable. Virgin Television claimed CBS should not have been allowed to increase its bid after the deadline.

Sir Edward Heath

□ Sir Edward Heath asks us to make clear that, contrary to a headline on a report (December 11), he continues his wholehearted backing for the Prime Minister, even though, in the event of a future Labour government, he would support that administration on those European issues on which he believed it merited support.

Islamic Dawaa Party

□ The Islamic Dawaa Party, which has an office in London, has no connection with a similarly named group accused by Philippines police of plotting to kill diplomats in Manila (report, January 10).

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Future sports and arts stars to be given lottery cash

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BUDDING sports stars are to receive National Lottery grants worth thousands of pounds to fund their training. Would-be artists and performers will also benefit from a government drive to promote individual talent and excellence.

Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, said yesterday: "We have just seen Emma Thompson winning her Golden Globe. We now want to help the stars of the future. We are going for gold."

The lottery "talent funds", to be administered by the Arts and Sports Councils, would benefit young people who wanted to become part of Britain's sporting and artistic elite, she said.

The grants, ranging from several hundred pounds to thousands, could be available as early as April, in time to contribute to the training costs of Britain's Olympic squad.

Kevin Hickey, technical director of the British Olympic Association, said the timing was excellent. "We are moving into a situation where the facilities and funding for elite competitors will allow them to fulfil their potential."

Derek Casey, chief executive of the Sports Council, said that the real beneficiaries would be

the teams representing Britain in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002.

"If you look at the investment in talented youngsters in different parts of the world, it is fair to say that large-scale investment in the long term produces higher standards and more gold medals," he said.

John James, chairman of the Lawn Tennis Association, also welcomed the talent funds. Although the initiative was unlikely to produce a British Wimbledon champion in the next year or two, it would "hopefully do so within a decade".

Individual lottery grants or bursaries worth a minimum of £2,000 will soon become available from the Millennium Commission, which last year set aside £100 million to help people to study, travel and improve their communities. But until now Sports and Arts lottery grants have been available only to capital projects, such as constructing and restoring buildings.

While the scheme will allow revenue funding, such as investment in people, it will not permit arts and sports bodies to subsidise their day-to-day running costs, such as building maintenance.

Sir David Putnam, chairman of the National Film and Television School and a member of the Arts Council's lottery board, said the talent funds represented "the first step in making the lottery more user-friendly". He added that the grants could greatly assist in training Britain's next generation of film-makers.

Education authority grants for students at the school are discretionary. "This could stabilise a grant situation that has, at best, been chaotic in the last decade," Sir David said.

A spokeswoman for the Arts Council said the talent funds could also be used to help dance and drama students,

who do not receive local education authority grants as of right.

Mrs Bottomley also wants the funds to be used to finance school trips to the theatre and to help touring arts companies, as well as to support big sporting events.

She confirmed that she will be holding discussions with arts organisations about creating "a stabilisation fund", under which cash-starved companies could receive significant amounts of money over several years to cover costs such as marketing advice, which contribute to long-term financial stability but are not easily available.

In a separate move, the Heritage Secretary defended the size of National Lottery jackpots after it emerged that this week's prize is likely to reach at least £40 million. Cutting the size of jackpots would only cut the cash available for good causes, she said.



Emma Thompson: "horribly gratified" with her award for best screenplay

Glittering prize makes Emma an Oscar favourite

FROM GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES

WITH a Golden Globe for her screenplay for *Sense and Sensibility*, Emma Thompson has confirmed her reputation in Hollywood as a star of many talents and has become hot favourite for a similar trophy on Oscar night.

Sir Anthony Hopkins was disappointed in the Best Actor category, which was won by Nicolas Cage for *Leaving Las Vegas*. Otherwise the evening that has become a dress rehearsal for the Academy Awards was a good one for Britain, with *Sense and Sensibility* the only film to win more than one prize and Sean Connery receiving a special award for a career that has spanned four decades.

In her acceptance speech at the Beverly Hills ceremony on Sunday, Ms Thompson called the award "horribly gratifying" and said: "I'm bloated with pride." She also suggested to an audience thick with studio executives that Miss Austen was owed vast sums in posthumous royalties.

The three-hour ceremony

boasted an impressive turnout of celebrities, including Sharon Stone, winner of the Best Actress award for *Casino*, and Mel Gibson, a surprise victor in the Best Director category for his medieval epic, *Braveheart*.

Sean Connery was also on hand to receive the Cecil B. De Mille award and said: "I've travelled to scores of exotic places, met many interesting people, kissed dozens of beautiful women and actually been very well paid for it."

Sense and Sensibility won the evening's most prestigious prize, for Best Drama, while *Babe*, the Australian morality tale about a pig that becomes a sheepdog, won in the Best Comedy category.

The failure of any single film to sweep the board leaves the Oscar race wide open. *Sense and Sensibility*, which had six Golden Globe nominations, could win at least as many in the Academy Award nominations next month. The Prince of Wales will attend the film's British premiere in London on February 21.



Bottomley: she wants Britons to go for gold

Law Society chief accuses staff of blocking reforms

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SOLICITORS' new leaders accused the profession's establishment yesterday of hindering reforms. Robert Sayer, deputy vice-president of the Law Society, said that he and Martin Mears, the president, were being "blocked every inch of the way" from implementing a platform of changes on which they were elected last year.

Mr Sayer cited their plans to stamp out cut-price conveyancing, to review how the society spends its £51 million budget and to limit numbers of trainees joining the 65,000-strong profession so that they match places available.

The simmering hostility between the new leadership, elected last summer in the first contested elections for nearly 40 years, and the society's staff and council has erupted over the conveyancing issue.

Mr Sayer proposed to the council before Christmas that conveyancers who consistently charged fees below a minimum guideline should not be covered by the profession's indemnity insurance but should have to find cover on the open market.

The meeting agreed that the proposals, with other suggestions, be put to the profession in a consultation paper. Yes-

terday Mr Sayer said that not only had senior officials insisted that they should draft the consultation paper, but that the draft paid only lip service to his proposals.

He said: "It is too late now to change this paper, which is completely alien to my original proposals. It is being presented as a *fait accompli*. The entire debate within council might just as well have never taken place."

Another example was his proposed review of the Law Society's finances. Mr Sayer said. He had suggested that consultants examine spending and consult staff. "I was then told this could not be done and that staff were not authorised to talk to outsiders and that this was not to be allowed."

John Hayes, the society's secretary-general, denied that staff had an agenda of their own. "The tenor of the council meeting before Christmas was that they wanted a more balanced paper putting the options and this is what the staff has done."

"The office holders have a very ambitious agenda and people will be able to study for themselves what they have achieved, and if not, why not."

Law, pages 31, 33

BR locks train doors after coupling snaps

By JONATHAN PRYNN

ALL connecting doors on hundreds of new commuter train carriages have been locked because of the risk of one becoming detached with passengers on board.

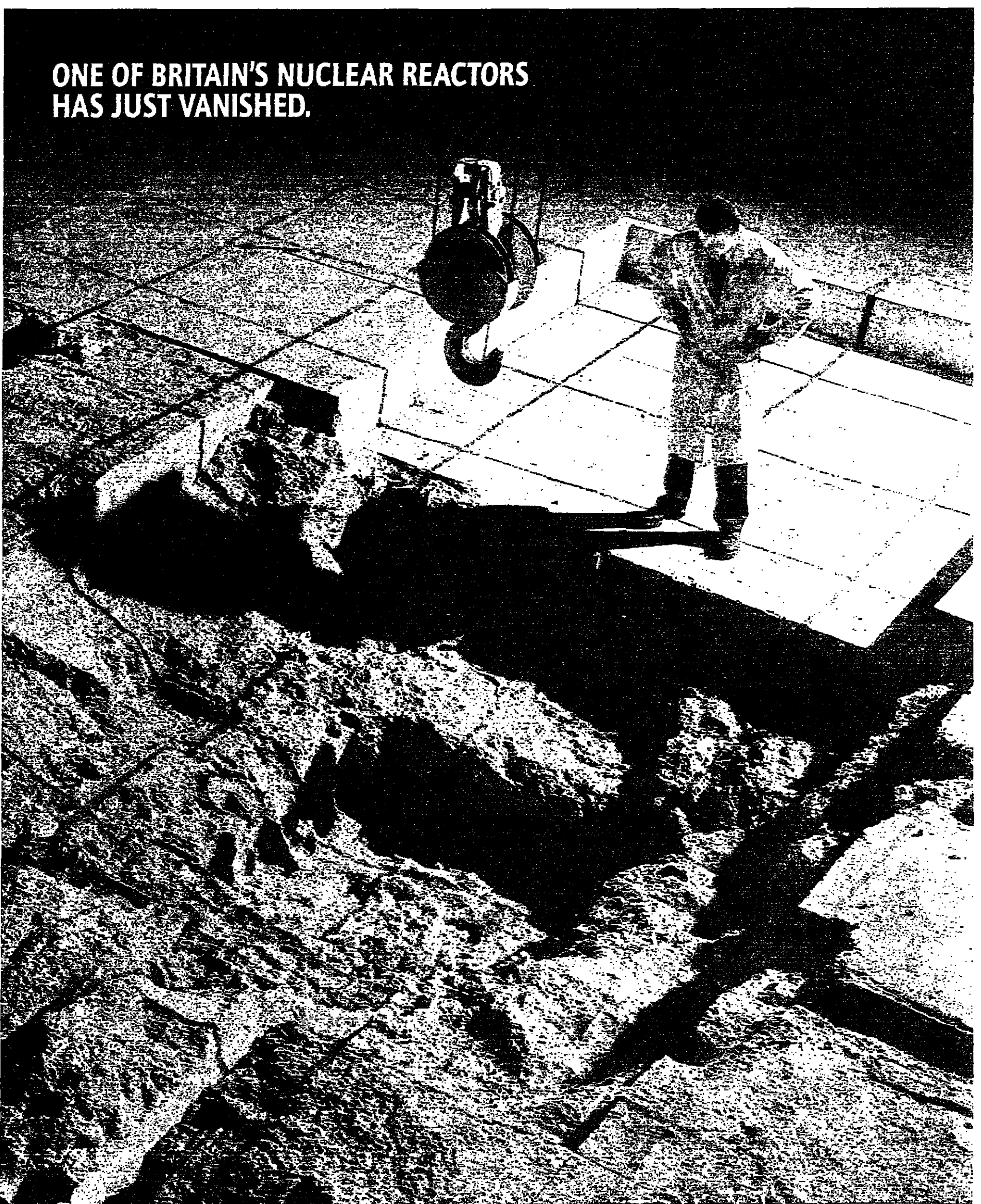
British Rail has ordered an urgent safety inspection on Newworker trains operated by South Eastern, after cracks were found in the metal couplings that hold together the carriages. The trains will stay in service while checks are made.

The metal fatigue was identified on 97 trains after a coupling sheared during chugging at the Slade Green depot in southeast London on January 13. It was initially thought to be limited to trains

that had completed more than 80,000 miles but subsequent ultrasonic tests found that some new trains were also affected.

A spokesman for South Eastern said passengers were not in danger. They could communicate with the driver in an emergency. In the unlikely event of a carriage becoming detached, the rest of the train would automatically be brought to a halt.

However, some South Eastern drivers said the trains should be withdrawn while tests were being made. "It is a bit like sending an airliner into the sky knowing that one of its wings is likely to drop off," said one.



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Defence Ministry admits negligence

Naval worker with brain damage wins £280,000 payout

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A ROYAL NAVY fitter who says he suffered brain damage from exposure to a strong solvent was awarded £280,000 compensation in an out-of-court settlement yesterday.

The Ministry of Defence admitted negligence in exposing Tony Bradshaw, 57, to five times the permitted level of methyl ethyl ketone (MEK). But it did not accept that this had led to his speech, coordination and mobility difficulties.

Mr Bradshaw, 57, had been fighting since 1989 to prove that his condition, cerebellar ataxia, was related to his work. The MoD will have to pay five-figure costs on top of the out-of-court settlement.

John Allen, of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, which backed Mr Bradshaw's case, called for a nationwide ban on MEK, which he said was used extensively in industry. He said there could be many others suffering ill-effects from the solvent, a strong substitute for white spirit. "Mr Bradshaw's life has been torn apart by MEK due to the MoD's failure to limit his exposure to it," he added.

Mr Bradshaw, who is married with a 31-year-old daughter, was a fitter at the Royal Naval Armaments Depot at Gosport, Hampshire, between 1972 and 1986. He said he used MEK regularly to strip Seacat surface-to-air missiles.

"I used to keep the chemical



Bradshaw: blamed illness on solvent

at work in dried milk tins and old coffee jars that my wife saved for me," he said. "While working with the MoD I was never given any warning at all that MEK might be toxic."

"I worked in a small room about six metres square and the smell of MEK was vile, but the door was supposed to be kept shut for security reasons. It was especially busy during the Falklands War when I worked a lot of overtime using MEK to remove the sealant on Seacat missiles."

Mr Bradshaw, of Portsmouth, became aware of an illness "creeping up on him" and by the early 1980s his speech began to slur and he found it difficult to write his signature. He had a rubber stamp made to save him having to sign his name.

His wife Sheila, 56, said she was not aware of a serious problem for some time because he was an independent man who kept things to

himself so that she would not be worried.

In 1985 Mr Bradshaw was diagnosed as suffering from cerebellar ataxia, which can be caused by excessive glue sniffing. "My brain tells me to do something and my body simply won't respond. I find myself fumbling when I try to do things and I am simply not co-ordinated. I feel as if a brick wall has come down on my life," he said.

"No money in the world can make up for me not being able to do my own DIY, get underneath a car or even tie my own shoelaces."

Tom Jones, his solicitor, said: "He deserves every penny of his compensation. His exposure to this chemical has restricted his mobility and caused slurring of speech. He will never work again."

Mr Jones said that other cases were expected to come to light. "There are more out there."

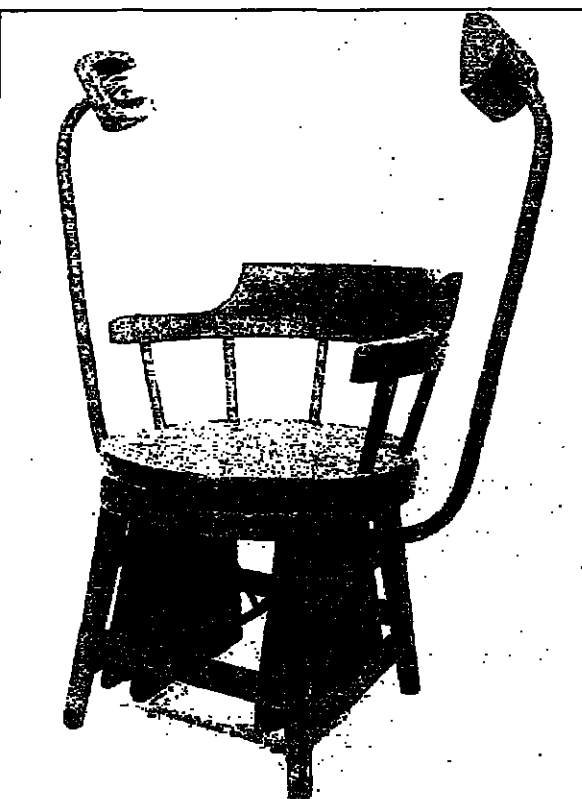
Although his case had taken more than six years to settle, Mr Bradshaw said he did not feel bitter towards the MoD. He has established a local organisation to help people who have similar medical conditions.

Professor Anthony Seaton, head of the department of environmental and occupational medicine at Aberdeen University, said he had encountered two other cases where excessive exposure to MEK had led to mental deterioration.

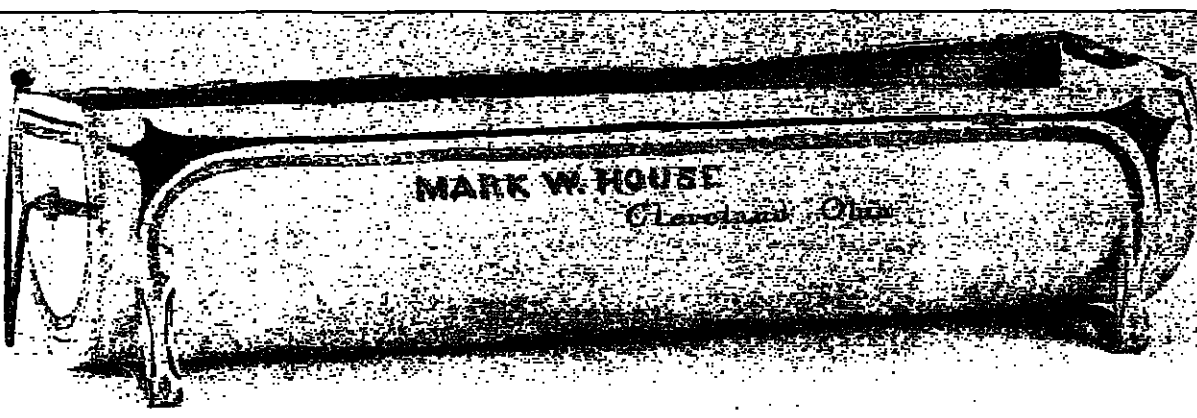
The MoD would not comment on the settlement.



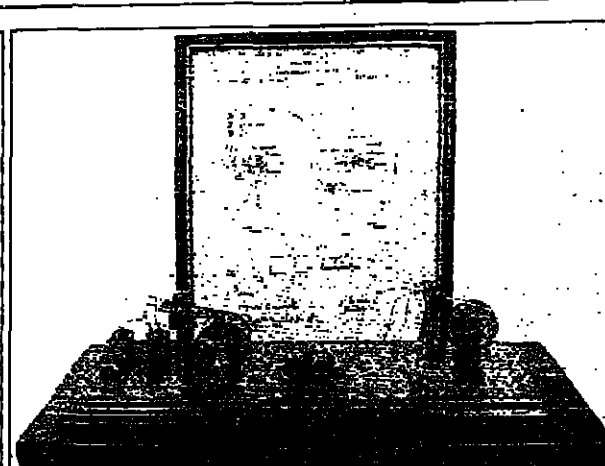
The optimistically titled "life-saving chair"



Keep a cool head: the rotating blast-producing chair



The 1862 model for an allegedly therapeutic device intended to pass an electric current through bathtub



The automatic telegraph invented by Edison, right, is among the important items



What am I bid for these mothers of invention?

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ZANY contraptions and Heath Robinson-style inventions that their creators hoped would improve the world are to be auctioned today.

Models for an 1873 exercise machine that looks like an instrument of torture; an 1880 conical-shaped dust-collector; and an 1873 carpet-sweeper largely made up of a box and some string are among the weird and wonderful gadgets to be sold by Christie's.

All were submitted to the American Patent Office between 1836 and 1899, and come complete with the drawings and specification sheets that also had to be provided. Each of the 200 items is being sold separately, with estimates ranging from £200 to £50,000; the entire collection is expected to fetch up to £300,000.

Some worked, and are not dissimilar to today's models. Others did not. A few, such as a bath that could send electric current through the water, would have been downright dangerous.

In most cases, the inven-

tion was not quite as ingenious as it seemed: in 1881, Alphonso Wilson of New York came up with a chair for saving lives at sea. If a ship sank, passengers could leap into the chairs, jump overboard and a flotation tank fitted underneath would ensure they were buoyed by the water.

At least, that was the idea. Tom Rose, a director of Christie's at South Kensington — who catalogued the items for its New York sale today — said: "It was totally and utterly impracticable. You would have broken your back jumping into the sea with that. You'd have sat there bobbing on the ocean with your broken back." The contraption is expected to make between £3,000 and £4,000.

Bizarre but perhaps brilliant was the 1858 rotating blast-producing chair by Leopold Richard Breisch, another New Yorker. A model of mahogany, brass and leather created an individual air-conditioning system: the chair operated two bellows to blow cool air to the sitter's

head. It is expected to fetch between £4,000 and £6,000.

Some of the inventions were by Londoners: William Richards's 1871 improvement to chimney pots and the 1875 model for the improvement in gas-burners by Albert Silber.

The collection was formed by Cliff Petersen, an American retired aeronautics consultant, who in 1979 bought 800 crates of patent models, many of which had not been touched since 1923 when the US Government stopped storing them.

Mr Rose explained that Mr Petersen had been instrumental in saving some 40,000 which were about to be discarded because "no one was interested in them". He eventually gave 30,000 to the American Patent Foundation and kept 4,500 of those that most intrigued him.

Mr Rose said: "There is an amazing cross-section of models in terms of quality. Some are very crude, some beautifully made. They cover an enormous area of human activity. Each one is a unique piece of history."

Leading the sale is the patent model of an 1881 carboniser for light bulb filaments by the inventor of the light bulb, Thomas A. Edison. There is also one of his earlier inventions, the automatic telegraph. They are each estimated to fetch some £50,000. As the catalogue notes, Edison holds the record for the most patents issued to a single individual, 1,093. Among other important pieces is the model of a catamaran designed in 1877 by Nathaniel G. Herreshoff, who built many boats that became contenders for the America's Cup.

Bypass protesters accused of cutting brake pipe

By ADRIAN LEE

PROTESTERS against the Newbury bypass were accused of using increasingly sinister tactics yesterday after a brake pipe was apparently cut on a coach carrying security guards.

As work on clearing the route went into its third week, the number of guards protecting workmen rose to at least 500. They now outnumber activists by about four to one. Campaigners admitted they were unable to stop work. More than 10 per cent of the route has been cleared.

The 50-seater coach was surrounded by 20 people at Chieveley services on the M4. In the past few days protesters

have urinated on guards, embedded nails in trees and "spiked" trees with metal wires, said the Highways Agency, which condemned the violent change in protesters' methods.

"Spiking is a deliberate and nasty tactic which causes chainsaws to snarl. It can be lethal for the operators because the chainsaws can come apart and maul the workmen's arms quite badly. We also take the attack on the coach very seriously. Lives could have been endangered."

The agency, responsible for building the £100 million road in Berkshire, said the level of protest had tailed off but a

"campaign of intimidation" was still being waged against guards and contractors. "We accept people's right to protest but we had hoped it would remain non-violent," said a spokeswoman.

Simon Festing, transport campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said protesters had abandoned attempts to break through cordons along the 8½-mile route. "There are large numbers of security guards. I estimate 600."

He said some of the 200 protesters arrested so far were concerned about the legal implications of further direct action and the protest was more passive. There was one arrest yesterday as work continued at two sites.

Campaigners have founded more camps along the route and there are now at least 13. The Highways Agency goes to the High Court on Friday to try to win possession orders, which would lead to the bailiffs going into four camps.

The cost of evicting the campaigners from scores of makeshift tree-top homes, by using a team of bailiffs, will add to the security bill.

Tories drop council house opt-out scheme

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are abandoning one of Baroness Thatcher's main housing initiatives after fewer than 1,000 council tenants benefited at a cost of more than £4 million. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, is demanding an end to the "tenants' choice" scheme to regenerate run-down council estates that formed part of the Tories' election-winning manifesto in 1987.

In eight years only 981 council tenants out of a possible six million have taken up the option to transfer control of their estates from local councils to other landlords or independent tenants' associations.

Ministers have conceded that the scheme, which requires closely monitored residents' ballots and a complex

and costly legal procedure, has failed to capture the public's imagination and is proving an unnecessary burden on councils.

Nick Raynsford, Labour's housing spokesman, yesterday tabled Commons questions to Mr Gummer and to David Curry, the Housing Minister, demanding to know details of the costs of the programme. He also suggested that the National Audit Office should consider investigating the costs of the various opt-out schemes.

Tory ministers believed tenants' choice would prompt a mass exodus of householders frustrated at the activities of Labour councils, but the only sizeable opt-out of council control has taken place in the Tory borough of Westminster. It took nearly four years for 918 residents from the Walerton and Elgin estates in Paddington, west

London, to opt out of the council's control after their estates were threatened with sale to the private sector.

The only other successful opt-out involving more than ten homes took place when 58 Holtsfield householders decided to end South Buckinghamshire District Council's control of their estate.

Some £1.7 million was spent on a plan to set up a tenants' choice scheme in Torbay, Devon, but 1,800 residents threw out the proposals after a protracted legal battle with the local Conservative council.

Mr Raynsford said: "This is a salutary lesson for any housing minister that they can pass legislation to their hearts' content but, if it doesn't have the support of the public, they are simply whistling in the wind."

The scheme ran alongside the con-

troverial Housing Action Trust programme, under which some councils were forced to relinquish control of the worst-run council estates. It was one of the first pieces of legislation to be passed in Lady Thatcher's final term in office.

Mr Gummer will appeal to MPs next week to repeal the 1988 legislation that set up tenants' choice, which he says is costing the housing corporations that run the scheme more than £1 million a year, on top of the costs to local authorities. The repeal of the law appears as a short section in the Housing Bill published last week.

The housing reforms were largely the work of John Patten, Lady Thatcher's Housing Minister, who saw them as a way of reducing the power of councils, particularly those run by Labour.

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Hillwalker search 'caused by a bilk'

By ROBIN YOUNG

A SEARCH for a missing hillwalker in Scotland may have been triggered by a trickster dodging a £40 hotel bill, police said yesterday.

The missing man, in his 20s, booked into the Royal Hotel in Kingussie, near Inverness, for three nights under the name James Kimmance, and gave his address as "Jersey, Channel Islands".

He set off on a supposed hill walking expedition early on Saturday morning, leaving two possible routes and an estimated time for his return to the hotel. When he failed to come back the alarm was raised and mountain rescue teams and an RAF helicopter were called out.

The rescue hunt, which has cost an estimated £50,000, was abandoned yesterday "for lack of information" after police had checked the man's hotel room and found nothing but two pairs of underpants.

Inspector Willie Maclean, spokesman of Northern Constabulary, said: "There are several lines of inquiry being followed. One is that he might still be on the hills but another is that he was simply dodging paying his bill. Nothing is being ruled out, but it makes it doubly difficult that we have

not been able to confirm the man's identity, or locate any next of kin."

Inquiries in Jersey failed to find anyone called Kimmance. There is no such listing in the island telephone directory, police have no record, and Mr Kimmance is unknown to the Jersey Climbing Club.

It also transpired that in contradiction to his story of going hillwalking on Saturday, the man had told regulars at a pub in Kingussie on Friday night that he would be driving to Glasgow the next day to fly back to Jersey.

Bernard Justice, owner of the Royal Hotel, said: "It is possible that this man was just out to bilk us. That is a regular occurrence."

But he said it would be galling if the man had put lives at risk to save the cost of two nights' bed and breakfast. "If that is the case I hope he feels good about himself."

John Allan, of the Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team, which was involved in Sunday's search, said: "If all this turns out to have been a false alarm we will be very angry. My team of volunteers were placed in a potentially dangerous situation by this man."

Bogus schoolboy invites film deal

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE 32-year-old failed medical student who posed as a schoolboy of 17 has begun talks with the producer of *Rob Roy* about filming his story.

Brian Mackinnon, who used the alias Brandon Lee to dupe teachers at Bearsden Academy, his former school in Glasgow, hopes to pay for medical studies abroad from the proceeds. He is in discussions with Peter Broughan, a former BBC producer and editor who set up Bronco Films in Glasgow. He chose Mr Broughan because he was impressed with the integrity of *Rob Roy*.

A spokeswoman for Bronco

Films said that talks with Mr Mackinnon and his agent were at an early stage. Mr Broughan is likely to seek American backing for the film. He won a Scottish tourism award for persuading Hollywood to make *Rob Roy*, which was filmed largely in Scotland.

It is understood that Mr Mackinnon is contemplating publishing his autobiography under the provisional title *Heart and Soul*. His exploits attracted worldwide media attention last September.

When Mr Mackinnon went back to school he achieved enough Highers to gain a place to study medicine at Dundee University. He lost the place when his identity was revealed and it became known that he had failed to complete a degree in medicine at Glasgow University.

Mr Mackinnon feels that it would be difficult for him to gain a place to read medicine at a British university but is considering studying abroad. "I'd go to Outer Mongolia if they spoke English and offered me the chance to practise medicine," he said. "The worst of this is that I've done nothing illegal. I just want to help people."



Mackinnon: impressed by *Rob Roy* producer

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Harman's action condemned as 'kick in the teeth from a woman who should know better'

Activists dismayed by MP's school decision

BY ANDREW PIERCE

LABOUR Party activists in Harriet Harman's Peckham constituency reacted with anger and dismay yesterday to her decision to send her son to a selective grammar school.

Councillors in Peckham, in the south London borough of Southwark, accused Ms Harman of "kicking local schools in the teeth" and said that she did not consult them about educational standards before deciding to send her 11-year-old son Joseph to St Olave's in Orpington, Kent.

The local party in Orpington has sent a letter of protest to Ms Harman and an emergency motion is expected to be tabled for Labour's general management committee meeting tomorrow night.

The attack on Ms Harman, Shadow Health Secretary and one of the borough's three MPs, was led by Mary Ellery, 53, a party member in



Worsley: Harman in an invidious position

Peckham for 30 years. Mrs Ellery, a councillor and former mayor of Southwark, said: "I can't believe that she has done this. I am proud of the fact my four grown-up children, and my grandchildren, went to the local state schools. They all did well. Our

schools have improved immensely but this is a kick in the teeth from a woman who can afford to send her children elsewhere and who should know better. She is saying: the schools are good enough for Peckham kids but not for mine. It just looks awful for all the hard working teachers in our schools."

Southwark, one of the poorest three boroughs in Britain, has languished for years at the bottom of the national schools' league table, although last year it rose five places. William Penn, Ms Harman's neighbourhood comprehensive school, is a mile from her home. It is next to the bottom of Southwark's league table with only 30 per cent of pupils leaving with a single GCSE pass last summer.

Mrs Ellery, chairman of the education and leisure sub-committee, said: "But they

have not improved enough for our own MP. What can I tell constituents when they come to my surgery and complain about our schools?"

Anne Worsley, chairman of Southwark's education committee, said that Ms Harman had never consulted her about the quality of local state schools. She told a press conference at Southwark town hall: "I regret that we were not able to offer the full range of education for which the child was suited. She [Ms Harman] has made that choice, which I regret."

Ms Worsley said that it was the same choice which many other parents had made in despair at the poor performance of the borough's schools. However, she supported the right of Labour frontbenchers to make personal choices about their own children.

She added: "Labour politicians are in an invidious position. Harriet Harman has chosen as a parent. If she chooses to send her child outside the borough this reflects the system of state schools throughout the London area. It is a situation we have lived with for a number of years. Quite a few parents have chosen outside the borough. I would not have."

Jeremy Fraser, the leader of the council, described Ms Harman as an excellent constituency MP who had raised a number of education issues with him. But he would not comment on her decision.

Ron Huzzard, assistant secretary of Orpington Labour Party, wrote to Ms Harman yesterday. "She should resign from the Shadow Cabinet and national executive," he said. "We feel very strongly about it. St Olave's is excluded from the vast majority of Orpington people. I am amazed that a Labour member of the Shadow Cabinet could even contemplate sending their child there."

Yesterday Ms Harman was under a virtual siege at her south London house. The MP, who is apparently suffering from flu, is refusing to leave home. Her husband, Jack Dromey, a senior official for the Transport and General Workers' Union, remained with her. Ms Harman made clear to the hordes of reporters and photographers outside that she had enough provisions to last for three weeks.

She has protested to the Press Complaints Commission after photographers allegedly "surged" towards Joseph as he left for school yesterday.

Leading article, page 15



Jack Dromey, Ms Harman's husband, at their south London home yesterday

Hattie and Jack, new Labour's model couple

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

HATTIE and Jack Harman, as they are known to their friends, should be the ideal new Labour couple.

She is the middle-class daughter of a lawyer and a Harley Street doctor who gives polish to Labour's front bench. He is the articulate son of a poor Irish immigrant couple who looks like a Stalinist hooligan. But he is actually "rather cute and very acute" and is now the acceptable face of the trade union movement.

Together they have managed to nurture two extremely competitive careers and three children, Harry, Joseph and Amy. They discuss the minimum wage over the washing up at their home in Herne

Hill, south London, and take it in turns to babysit.

As one Shadow Cabinet colleague says: "They give street cred to each other."

Because she comes from this rather posh background and he is one of the workers. They make Tony Blair's ideal knitting pattern couple.

The pair met while he was a bearded militant, working for the Brent trades council and she was a young solicitor at the Brent Law Centre. He was making trouble on the Grunwick picket line and she was crusading for civil liberties and sex equality.

Ms Harman was educated at St Paul's girls' School and York University. She was elected for the impoverished

Labour seat of Peckham in the by-election of 1982 as a left-of-centre candidate. Most voters in her constituency live in council houses.

In the House she was fearlessly feminist, breast-feeding in front of colleagues and adamant that her children came first, but her colleagues say that she is extremely hard working.

Many male Labour MPs view her with deep suspicion and believe she was out of her depth on economics when she was made Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Old Labour saw to it that she lost her Shadow Cabinet job but Tony Blair rates her extremely highly and has made her Shadow Health Secretary.

How top parents bowed to party pressure

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

WHEN Harold Wilson was leader of the Labour Party in the 1960s he would sometimes drop his sons off at their independent school on his way to Westminster. Three decades later, Labour MPs have to think more carefully about sending their children even to some kinds of state schools if they are to avoid charges of political hypocrisy.

Harriet Harman is the latest in a long line of Labour luminaries to face the dilemma of whether to follow the spirit of party policy or to select the best available school. Several members of Wilson's Cabinet altered their plans when education became a sensitive political issue and few have challenged comprehensive orthodoxy since.

There was little or no criticism of Wilson's choice of University College School, north London, despite his government's championing of comprehensive education. But two of his senior colleagues, Tony Benn and Roy Jenkins, moved their children from the independent sector to Holland Park School, west London, perhaps the most fashionable state school of the day.

John Vaizey, one of Wilson's closest advisers, chose Eton, as did C.P. Snow, in his days as a Labour minister. Lord Snow memorably justified his decision as necessary to introduce his son to the type of people he would work with in later life.

Others exercised an early version of selection by marriage. Richard Crossman, as Education Secretary, avoided inner London schools when his family moved to their country home in Oxfordshire during the week.

MPs' choice of school became a national issue in the late 1970s when Shirley Williams came under pressure to move her daughter from the Godolphin and Laymer School, west London, which was choosing to become independent rather than go comprehensive. She, too, opted for Holland Park.

During Labour's lurch to the left, few MPs were prepared to risk a school which might prove controversial. One exception was Kevin McNamara, the party's spokesman on Ireland, who survived a deselection motion after refusing to remove his sons from Ampleforth College. They had won music scholarships and he argued that the combination of Catholic education and specialist music teaching was not available at state schools near by.

Opting out has presented Labour politicians with new obstacles, as Tony Blair discovered when he chose the London Oratory School for his son Euan. Although party policy does not preclude grant-maintained schools, Labour is committed to abolishing the system in its present form.

Peter Hain, whose children attend the grant-maintained Elliott School in Wandsworth, south London, said yesterday that his eldest son had been at the school for five years before it opted out against his wishes.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, is politically beyond reproach: only 2 per cent of candidates achieved the equivalent of five O levels when his children first attended their comprehensive school in his Sheffield constituency.

Inner-city comprehensive and its celebrated rival

BY DAVID CHARTER
AND LEXIA LINTON

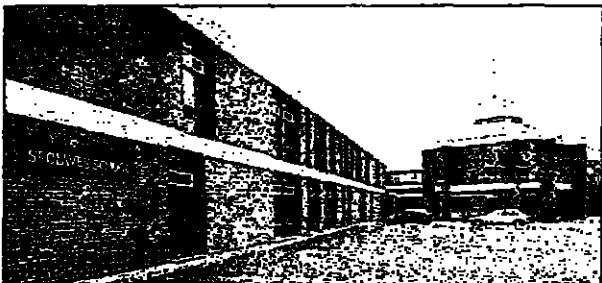
HARRIET HARMAN's son Joseph will be able to try his hand at Eton Fives, a sport usually associated with a few independent schools, when he arrives at St Olave's next September.

The grant-maintained grammar school for boys in Orpington, Kent, which has a variety of sporting facilities including an indoor swimming pool and squash courts, is a national force at fives and recently recorded victories against the founders of the game, Eton.

The contrast with facilities at the nearest school to the home of the Shadow Health Secretary and MP for Peckham could not be greater. William Penn comprehensive has no playing fields or swimming pool on its cramped site in Dulwich, south London.

Having been classified as failing by school inspectors, William Penn school is working on an action plan to turn around a dismal performance in some subject areas, but has not been helped by run-down concrete and glass accommodation.

Lloyd Marshall, the head teacher, said: "As an inner-city comp we are trying to do our best for the children. The children come in from wide and far, and many come from difficult circumstances. We have to work with what we have, and in doing that we do



St Olave's, the school chosen by Harriet Harman for her son, and below, the local one she decided against



set targets for raising the performance of all children. We are not in a position to select anybody."

Most of the children are from working-class and ethnic minority backgrounds at William Penn: the sons of prosperous middle-class parents dominate the roll of St Olave's. Last summer, William Penn's steel band played for Princess Margaret at a garden party.

John Hall, who has two children, lives 200 yards from William Penn's school gates. He said: "I understand Harriet Harman's dilemma. I send

my children to another school. But if a Labour frontbencher thinks the school is not good enough for her kids then you deduce from that they are not good enough for anyone."

Places at St Olave's are oversubscribed by six to one. A £1.5 million building programme is helping to expand the entry to four classes next year.

Old boys include Baron Hill of Luton, a former BBC chairman, Sir Alan Marre, a former Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, and the actor Roy Marsden.

Mother's choice puts political career on the line

Tory party managers were smiling yesterday for the first time in a long while. It may not last long. But, for the moment, Tony Blair faces a serious test of the credibility of his "new" Labour approach.

Harriet Harman's decision to send one of her sons to a selective grammar school has touched the most sensitive Labour nerves. An attachment to comprehensive education has been one of the strongest held beliefs of many Labour members, lasting far longer than support for public ownership or clause four. It was the centrepiece of the egalitarianism of the Labour revisionists who came of age in the 1960s and 1970s and whose intellectual mentor was Anthony

Crosland. Their flame is still kept alive by Roy Hattersley, in rare alliance with the traditional Labour Left. This alignment across right-left divisions creates particular difficulties for Mr Blair.

The producer interests of education are also strongly represented in the party: many Labour activists are teachers and school governors. Consequently, no issue has created greater anguish within constituency parties over the past few years than the decisions that many party members have faced as parents in local ballots on whether schools should become grant-maintained.

Labour has shifted towards an uneasy acceptance of greater independence for existing opted-out schools within an overall frame-

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

work set by local education authorities. By far the most passionate debate at last autumn's Labour conference was over education. The leadership line only prevailed thanks to David Blunkett's assurance that the party would continue to oppose selection by examination or by interview, though with a fudge over the future of existing grammar schools.

Education is one of those rare issues where MPs can face a direct personal conflict between personal and party responsibilities. On most questions, such as a single currency or rail privatisation, the personal

behaviour of an MP is irrelevant. But, on education, and to a lesser extent health, a conflict can exist between a parent's desire to secure the best possible schooling for their child and the policy commitments of their party. In many parts of the country, there is no problem since the quality of local state education or health provision is high. But that is not true in parts of inner-London.

Many comprehensive schools near where Ms Harman lives have serious disciplinary problems and have appalling academic results.

MPs who are parents can face a choice of following the party's policy line or putting the interests of their children first. Mr Blair's decision to send one of his sons to

an opted-out, though comprehensive, school has caused him more personal difficulties within the party than any other matter, even though his decision was within the letter of Labour's shifting policy. Ms Harman faces an even more acute dilemma. She is putting her career at risk by putting her children first.

The risks are real. She is suspected by many of the more traditionally minded male MPs for being a metropolitan trendy. She has already lost her Shadow Cabinet place once, in 1993, and would do so again if elections were held soon. Her reelection to the party's national executive this autumn may also be

in doubt. But Mr Blair has to back Ms Harman in her attempt to ride out the row. Anything else would represent a victory for the rumbling forces of "old" Labour and undermine his attempt to present Labour as a "new" party favouring parental choice.

The row has not only provided the Tories with welcome ammunition but has also exposed the weaknesses in Labour's current compromise approach. If parental choice is to mean anything, parents should be allowed to choose the schools they believe best for their children. Ms Harman has offended many in her party but her priorities are those of most parents.

PETER RIDDELL

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Crisis talks on Germany's decline as corporate giants squeeze workers

Industry and union chiefs call on Kohl to halt rise in unemployed

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN employers and union representatives held talks today with Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, to press him to take urgent action to stem rising unemployment and halt the country's economic decline.

The number of jobless in Germany will exceed four million this month and the

Since 1992, Daimler, Volkswagen and Siemens have shed 180,000 jobs. This year 180,000 more are expected to be lost. Daimler is planning to cut more than 1,000 jobs. New investment plans increasingly focus on cheap labour countries, such as Poland and the Czech Republic, or lower cost European Union members, like Britain. Siemens is setting up its new microchip factory in northeast England.

Yesterday metalworkers, led by the union IG Metall, launched strikes and occupied steel plants across Germany's Ruhr industrial heartland to protest against planned changes to retirement laws. They fear the changes will threaten jobs.

The talks today will focus on devising a way out of the jobs crisis without seriously upsetting the foundations of Germany's welfare state. They will also address the problem of how to lower Germany's extraordinarily high labour costs. The Chancellor's former adviser on the economy, Dr Johannes Ludwig — now State Secretary in the Economics Ministry — has worked out a four-point plan which will form the basis of today's discussions:



German steelworkers in Duisburg carry a mock coffin as they protest against planned changes to retirement laws which they fear will lead to layoffs

□ Supplementary wage costs have to be lowered. Employers' contributions to social insurance currently amount to the equivalent of 41.3 per cent of the wage. If this were cut to 39 per cent, employers would save some 15 billion marks. It could lead to the hiring of new workers. The missing money for social insurance would come from an increase in value-added tax.

□ Tax breaks should be restricted to a minimum, according to the Ludwig paper. But income tax should be cut.

□ The Government should

spend more on encouraging new entrepreneurs.

□ Subsidies to farmers and coal miners have to be cut.

The plan makes sense to many Bonn politicians. Norbert Blum, the Christian Democrat Labour Minister, regards the plan — if complemented by a restriction on overtime and early retirement — as a way of making Germany more efficient while retaining the welfare state.

"Hiring and firing does not fit into our idea of social partnership," he said. "The employers should be concerned

on making rather than on slaughtering, on creating rather than destroying jobs."

The unions go some way along this path, but it is far from clear whether the Chancellor will win broader social acceptance for his ideas.

About one-third of Germany's economic strength is needed to support the welfare state. For every mark paid by a company to its workers, another 80 pfennigs have to be paid for welfare costs. Because unemployment is rising, matched by the demand for unemployment benefit, there

is ever more pressure to raise social contributions. These costs are forcing companies to declare more redundancies.

Daimler is cutting back jobs because it over-expanded in the 1980s. It did so with the explicit encouragement of Deutsche Bank, which owns a 25 per cent stake in Daimler.

Bank stakes in German industry are supposed to foster a sense of longer-term investment, strategic thinking and national prosperity. But there appears rather to be a trend towards mutually dependent failure. A Mannheim

University study recently found that companies with the highest level of bank influence are the most indebted. Bank-influenced decisions were often neither business-friendly nor efficient.

Perhaps the most symbolic event of the week will be the return to Germany in handcuffs of Jürgen Schneider, a property magnate who has been on the run since his empire collapsed. He blames German banks for his plight.

Daimler-Fokker link, pages 23 and 27

Maastricht straitjacket blamed for French economic ills

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

JEAN ARTHUIS, the French Finance Minister, emerged from last weekend's G7 summit rosy with optimism and predicting that the French economy would see "a clear, significant revival of growth" in the latter part of this year.

But that sunny view finds few echoes among French economists, let alone in the high streets of France where consumer and business confidence are at rock bottom after last month's devastating strikes. Faced with a gloomy economic outlook and the threat of further industrial unrest, France has been gripped by a fresh wave of Euro-scepticism, and in recent days politicians from all sides

have questioned whether France can, or should, meet the requirements for a single European currency.

Economic activity has been slowing down since the early part of last year, compounded by tax increases and an unemployment rate of 11.5 per cent after three consecutive monthly rises. The Government originally predicted a growth rate of 2.8 per cent for this year, but many economists now believe the rate will not exceed 1.5 per cent.

December's transport strike and flagging economy have already claimed several prominent victims: Galeries Lafayette, the department store, is closing five outlets and laying off 1,000 workers, while 5,000 smaller businesses in the Paris region face possible bankruptcy. "Pessimism is everywhere," declared a headline in yesterday's *Libération* newspaper.

Overall, the strikes have destroyed an estimated 100,000 jobs and businesses have suffered losses of more than Fr20 billion (£2.6 billion). The problem has been exacerbated in Paris by a sharp drop in foreign tourists.

At the end of last month Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, outlined measures to stimulate the economy, but these have been delayed after the Government belatedly discovered that several of the initiatives required legislative approval. Last week President Chirac announced that France and Germany would co-ordinate measures to boost consumer spending.

In another bid to stimulate the economy, the Bank of

France last week cut its leading interest rates, while declaring its support for government efforts to reduce the budget deficit and reform the lavish welfare system.

The Chirac Government faces a delicate balancing act. The slowdown may require even deeper public spending cuts, which in turn may prompt new strikes, more job losses and further business dislocation. But the price of stronger growth and renewed economic confidence may be still more profound structural reform, and many wonder whether the Government has the stomach for more industrial conflict.

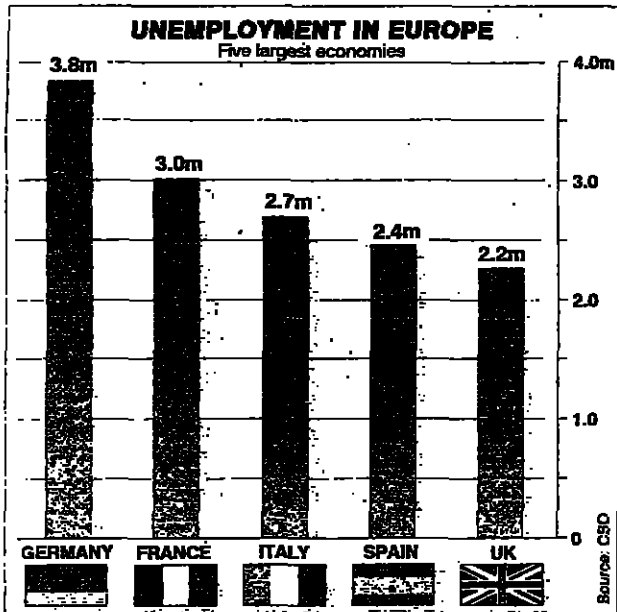
The signs of a slump have provoked a new storm of debate here over European monetary union in general and the Maastricht criteria in

particular, which require that the French budget deficit be reduced from 5 per cent to less than 3 per cent of GDP in the next two years.

Last week Philippe Séguin, the Speaker and France's most prominent Euro-sceptic, lashed out at the stupidity of the Maastricht Treaty's framers, whom he accused of "ignoring the people and the realities". Robert Hue, the Communist leader, has called for a referendum on EMU.

Jacques Calvet, the outspoken chairman of Peugeot, the French car maker, was more emphatic. "Maastricht no longer exists," he said. "Maastricht is obsolete. Maastricht is dead."

Many hard-pressed businessmen place the blame for their predicament squarely on the drive for monetary union.



Nato joins forces with war crimes teams to seek out mass graves

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE international search for evidence of mass graves in Bosnia intensified yesterday, when leaders of Nato and the war crimes tribunal in the former Yugoslavia apparently agreed on how to work together to uncover the truth.

Admiral Leighton Smith, the commander of Nato forces in Bosnia, and Judge Richard Goldstone, the chief prosecutor of the tribunal, met in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, and "agreed on modalities to carry out their respective missions", a statement said. The talks came amid alarm at the weekend over the extent of the alleged graves.

Focus on the alleged mass graves heightened when John Shattuck, the American human rights envoy, toured suspected sites near Srebrenica at the weekend. He said up to 7,000 men may have been massacred by Serb forces in the area. Yesterday he visited Belgrade, the Serbian capital, and briefed President Milošević on his findings.

Mr Shattuck said he told Mr Milošević "that what I had seen clearly corroborated the

testimony of the survivors of mass executions... That clearly to me indicates that evidence that has been compiled so far is very clear on mass executions in the area." American intelligence is, meanwhile, investigating the potentially explosive question of whether President Milošević was personally associated with war crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina. While Washington would rather avoid his indictment, given his role in securing the Dayton accord, the White House is said to have signalled to the intelligence community at the end of last year that "no one" was exempt from investigation.

In Sarajevo, Admiral Smith indicated that Nato troops would be able to help the war crimes tribunal by providing "appropriate assistance to ensure security for tribunal sites". His comments came after he was quoted at the weekend as saying: "Nato is not going to guard specific grave sites."

Judge Goldstone said his staff would be visiting the sites "in the very, very near future".

In Brussels, Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, vowed to prevent the destruction of suspected mass grave sites. Sources in Brussels said the Nato-led Implementation Force, Ifor, would conduct regular overflights and take aerial photographs to protect the suspected burial sites. Ground patrols would be sent if the suspected graves were in danger of being tampered with, the source said.

Michael Portillo, the De-



Judge Goldstone, held meeting in Sarajevo

ference Secretary, said in Washington yesterday that Ifor should help international investigators bring war criminals to justice. "Britain's position is that Nato will have to provide some sort of a role if the investigations are to take place," Mr Portillo said. He was to hold talks later yesterday with William Perry, his American counterpart.

Admiral Smith has, meanwhile, launched a campaign aimed at averting a Serb exodus from Sarajevo with the handover of power by March 20 to the Bosnian Government, as stipulated under the Dayton peace accord. There are about 35,000 Serbs in the suburbs of Sarajevo.

Despite the campaign, thousands are organising a mass exodus from the Serb-held areas of the capital by January 31, rather than live under a Muslim-led Government. Bozidar Skobic, a refugee leader, said: "For now it is impossible to live with the Muslims and Croats; maybe in 20 years' time. There has been too much blood spilt and disinformation. Lies, lies," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tajikistan's chief cleric shot dead

Moscow: Mufi Fatkhulla Sharipov, the supreme Islamic cleric in Tajikistan, has been murdered (Thomas de Waal writes).

Mufi Sharipov and his family were shot dead on Sunday, first day of Ramadan, at his house. The murders put further strain on peace talks, due this week, between the pro-Moscow Government, which the cleric supported, and the Islamic opposition.

Bomb suicide

Sofia: A man enraged by the bankruptcy of a foreign exchange bureau killed himself by detonating a bomb in a pizza parlour in the Bulgarian capital. The explosion killed two others, police said. (AFP)

Mother tongue

Rome: An Italian under house arrest pending an appeal against a conviction for armed robbery has begged police to take him to jail so he can escape his nagging mother. Newspapers reported. (Reuters)

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Ardennes poachers put rare species at risk

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A VAST network poaching endangered French wildlife has been uncovered in the great forests of the Ardennes in northeast France where Charlemagne once hunted game.

The police arrested 12 people last week suspected of illegally killing rare animals including barn owls and wild boar. They were destined to become trophies or to furnish the tables of gourmands.

The police discovered 125 protected animals stored in deep freezers, as well as a "paramilitary arsenal" of weapons allegedly used to kill them. The 20 protected species included wild cats, rare squirrels, finches and woodpeckers. Most of the animals were passed on to taxidermists to make trophies for game hunters and collectors who would then mount them to claim as their own.

Sport was clearly the last thing on the minds of the illegal hunters because their armoury included night-vision equipment, radio transmitters, silencers and military camouflage.

Brigitte Bardot, the animal rights campaigner, has accused the Government of turning a blind eye to the fate of France's rapidly dwindling wildlife.

The wild boar of the Ardennes were particularly vulnerable to the poaching syndicate, which the police described as "almost industrial in scale". Over the past year game wardens have reported that the forest's population of 600 boar had dropped by a sixth without the discovery of a single carcass.

Charlemagne might have found himself agreeing with Mme Bardot on the need for tighter hunting regulations. The King of the Franks and Holy Roman Emperor, who died in AD 814, was particularly fond of hunting the aurochs, a species of wild cattle in the Ardennes forest. The aurochs is now extinct.



Charlemagne: ardent follower of the hunt

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Africa hit by decline in food aid

Nairobi: Serious food shortages will affect 44 African countries this year as a result of declining global availability of food aid and high cereal prices in the world market, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation said yesterday.

"With further production decline anticipated and given the steep increase in world cereal prices, many of the 44

low-income, food-deficit countries will be hard pressed to make up their food needs through imports," a FAO report by Jacques Diouf, the Director-General, said.

The report named Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan as the countries in dire need of emergency assistance. Food aid also remained high for Rwanda, and the report urged the international community

to make contingency relief plans for violence-hit Burundi. Much of Liberia will continue to depend on food aid, the FAO said, and gave warning of a "food crisis" in Sierra Leone.

Global food availability was unlikely to recover to the high levels of the 1980s, when surplus stocks and subsidised exports from key donors led to generous donations.

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Why West must stop paying court to Tsar Yeltsin and his barons



Yeltsin: limbering up for election fight

PRESIDENT YELTSIN'S bungling of the latest Chechen insurrection has deepened most Russians' alienation from his Government. Last month the two parties sponsored by the Kremlin won a derisory 11 per cent of the popular vote.

Yet he is manoeuvring more vigorously than ever to be re-elected in the June 12 presidential elections. Brushing aside mounting criticism of his leadership and doubts about his health yesterday, Mr Yeltsin told foreign investors meeting in the Kremlin that he was preparing for a tough presidential race and would formally announce his candidature in the coming weeks.

Some experienced Russian observers, including Aleksandr Tsipko, of Moscow's Gorbachev Foundation, still think he has a good chance of pulling it off. He will, they believe, continue to revert to his natural authoritarian ways, may split the opposition, and discreetly

With Russia weakened by growing instability, it is time for outsiders to disengage from the faction-fighting, argues Professor Peter Reddaway

but firmly rig the election process to whatever extent is needed.

In my view, this is certainly his current aim. But I am not so sure that he can bring it off. The next five months will be full of surprises and dirty tricks. Moreover, Mr Yeltsin's precarious health may not stand the strain and may force him to drop out.

The military disasters and savagery of last week's anti-Chechen operations resulted largely from gross political incompetence at the top. This humiliated the Government and the army and again held Russia up to international scorn.

The President's strategy looks like this. Ruling increasingly like a Tsar,

he relies on a coterie of associates and keeps the political and economic power of each in balance. Since no autonomous middle class has emerged to support him, he bases his power on the regional structures of executive power.

Mr Yeltsin will advocate "Reforms - New Course", on the campaign trail. According to numerous leaks, the plan Mr Yeltsin favours is to "organise" the first round of the election so that he and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy finish first and second. Mr Yeltsin would win the run-off election because voters would be scared by the prospect of the ultra-nationalist as President.

Mr Yeltsin has been taking preventive action, trying to appease the Communists and nationalists who dominate the new Duma by dismissing their main enemies. Thus the last prominent democrats in Mr Yeltsin's entourage - Anatoli Kobzarev, Foreign Minister; Anatoli Chubais, First Deputy Prime Minister; and Sergei Filatov, head of the Presidential Administration - have been removed. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and Pavel Grachev, Defence Minister, may follow.

Mr Yeltsin has moved to counter a potential rival in June, retired General Aleksandr Lebed. He reportedly ordered the main Electoral Commission to trim the real vote for Mr Lebed's party to below the 5 per cent required for Duma representation.

If Mr Yeltsin loses his nerve he may postpone the election - an unconstitutional move if done without the consent of the Duma. Politics would then become even more unstable. Mr Yeltsin may prefer to try to negotiate a power-sharing compromise with the Duma opposition of Communist and nationalist hardliners. Whatever happens, Western governments need to recognise the Duma elections and the Chechen crisis as serious setbacks to their own hopes and revise their strategy. Firstly, the West should stop taking sides in Russia's internal politics. We have long been fostering anti-Westernism by aggressively supporting Mr Yeltsin and Mr Chernomyrdin in ways we would find highly offensive if they were practised in reverse. Secondly, we should start to prepare seriously for dealing with a Russia run increasingly by Communists and nationalists. Thirdly, we should admit that several years of IMF-directed attempts at macro-economic stabilisation have not

worked. Something is fundamentally wrong when the IMF is pumping into Russia billions of dollars in loans, but sums from twice to ten times as large are simultaneously leaving the country in capital flight.

Fourthly, the West should stop soft-peddling its criticism of the war in Chechnya. From the start, this has undermined Russia's democracy, sapped its economy and dismayed most of its people.

And, fifthly, we need to realise that the Russian state is now so weak that organised crime and corruption will go on flourishing and order will not be restored for years. In sum, the West needs to rebuild its Russia policy from the bottom up.

The author is Professor of Political Science at George Washington University and formerly Director of the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies in Washington.

Millionaire's flat tax lure enlivens US election race

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AGAINST the odds, this year's plodding race for the Republican presidential nomination has finally generated a debate of real substance.

The issue is whether America should take the revolutionary step of abandoning tax progressiveness or abide by the unquestioned principle that the better-off should contribute disproportionately more to the common weal.

The catalyst has been Steve Forbes, the publishing magnate. He has spent more than \$12 million (£7.9 million) promoting the idea of a "flat tax" to replace the labyrinthine income tax code with its five basic bands and countless loopholes and deductions.

Instead, he would have all Americans pay exactly the same rate of tax - 17 per cent - on their earned income. The first \$36,800 would be exempt to protect poorer families, but he would permit no deductions and no taxation of any unearned income.

This radical idea, untested anywhere, has propelled Mr Forbes into second place and split the Republican field. Robert Dole, the front-runner, distrusts supply-side economics and tried unsuccessfully to dissuade Jack Kemp, the head of a Republican tax commission, from endorsing the concept in the commission's report last week.

Phil Gramm, the Texas sen-

ator, sought to trump Mr Forbes by proposing a 16 per cent "flat tax", applicable to unearned income, too, and retaining certain popular deductions. Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor, called the "flat tax" a "truly nutty idea" while Pat Buchanan, the populist conservative commentator, suggested it had been cooked up by "the boys in the yacht basin". But everyone - even the White House - has seen where the wind is blowing and now backs a "flatter" tax code.

A new *Wall Street Journal* poll indicates 41 per cent support for the "flat tax" and its proponents certainly paint an alluring picture. They claim it would generate the biggest boom in US history by liberating the economy from the dead weight of the present tax code, letting Americans keep more of what they earn and encouraging investment. It would also end tax evasion and clean up Washington, as politicians could no longer trade tax breaks for political and financial support.

That is a powerful message in a country that loathes Washington, taxes and the Internal Revenue Service. But other Republicans believe the "flat tax" is one of those superficially attractive ideas that collapse on inspection.

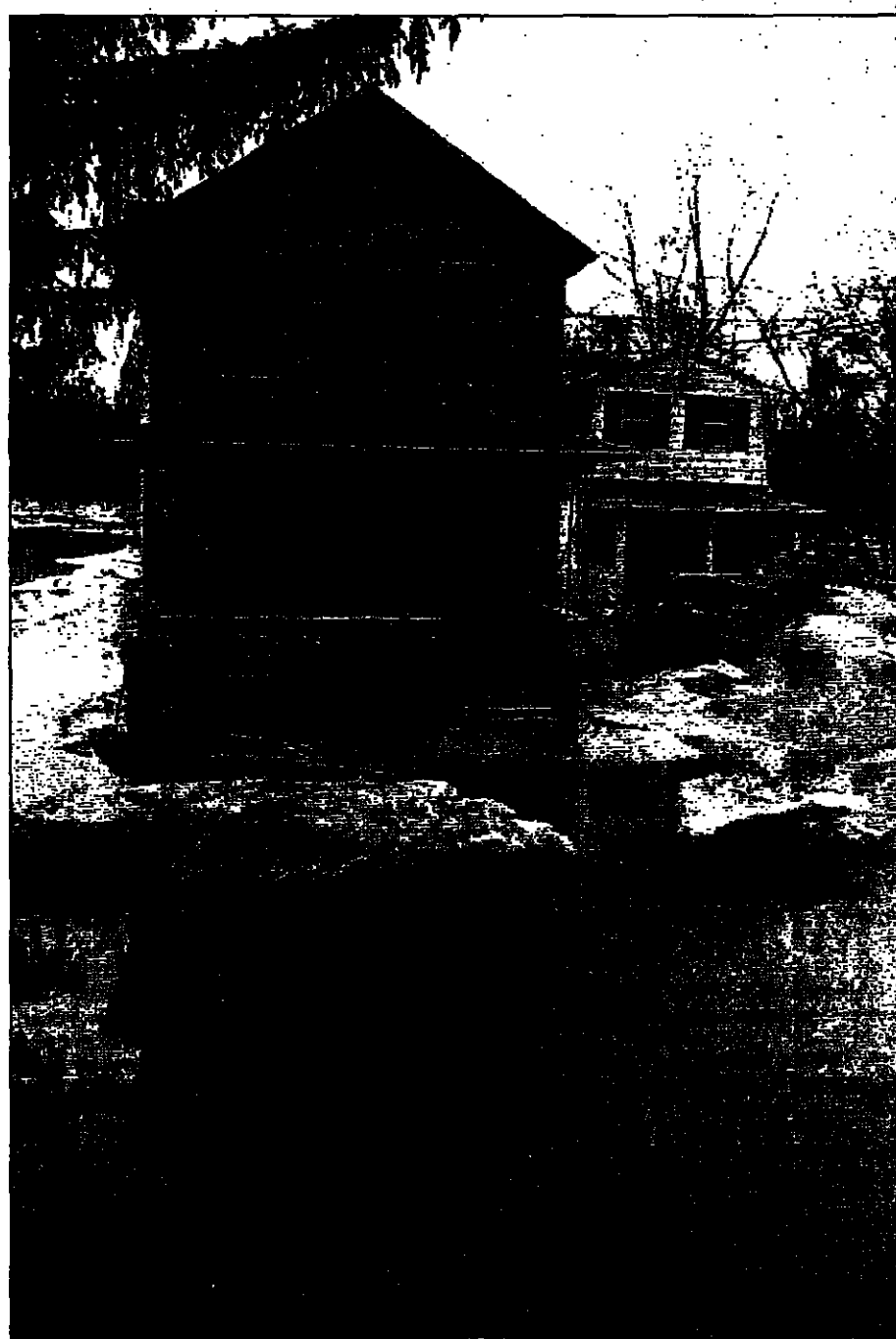
Most independent analyses contend that a 17 per cent "flat

tax" would swell the deficit by about \$200 billion a year as Washington is struggling to clear mountains of debt left by the last experiment with supply-side economics, in the 1980s. Mr Forbes blames that debt on uncurbed spending and insists that the analyses underestimate the revenues America's explosive growth would generate.

"Flat tax" opponents also predict the Republicans would be electorally crucified for abolishing mortgage-tax relief - a move that would hit property prices - and for proposing, under Mr Forbes's plan, that multimillionaires living off inherited wealth would pay no tax while their servants paid 17 per cent.

The problem is this. A 17 per cent "flat tax" would not greatly help or hurt the middle classes, but if it was raised to prevent the deficit ballooning or permit popular deductions, ordinary Americans would be clobbered while the rich would still enjoy a windfall. Even at 17 per cent, Mr Forbes himself would save about \$150,000 annually.

Conventional wisdom is that support for the "flat tax" will fade once voters understand what it really means, but then Mr Forbes has shown the old pro-growth, Reaganesque message of the 1980s still has far more resonance than anyone realised.



Flooded houses in Plymouth, Pennsylvania, where an emergency was declared after a sudden thaw and heavy rain brought more misery to northeastern America

US floodwaters begin to freeze as cold returns

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

FLOODS caused massive damage in northeastern America after a freak thaw and summer-style rains washed away the recent heavy snow. Thirty-five people were killed, thousands were evacuated from their homes, cars were smashed and roads collapsed.

Residents of Pennsylvania and coastal areas from Rhode Island to Washington wondered what they had done to offend Mother Nature. An exhausted Samuel Jordan, the capital's Director of Emergency Preparedness, said, with a thin smile, that he was preparing for a plague of locusts.

Rivers, swollen by a sudden rise in temperature at the end of last week, rose by 10ft. The Ohio burst its banks, covering 95 per cent of the island of Wheeling, West Virginia. Great eastern waterways raced out of control, and the Potomac flooded Washington's chic Georgetown area.

A state of emergency was declared in Pennsylvania, allowing federal funds to be used to house evacuees and buy supplies. Pittsburgh was hit by the worst floods for 20 years and Tom Ridge, the Governor, and his family had to move out of the gubernatorial mansion in Harrisburg to escape the rising waters of the Susquehanna.

Mr Ridge, a Republican, criticised the speed of response from federal agencies. "They should get off their Democrat behinds and come up and see the pain on

people's faces," he said. The Red Cross opened 199 temporary shelters from New York to West Virginia.

Flash floods raced down mountain ravines, gathering speed as they went and causing havoc when they hit towns. In Cumberland, Maryland, every car on every lot of six dealerships was destroyed.

The trouble began with the heavy snowfalls in the northeast at the beginning of the month. A sudden rise in temperatures then brought a thaw and heavy rain, with storm drains blocked by ice and debris. By yesterday the tide was back, with some of the floodwaters reduced to slow-moving ice flows.

Flood evacuees in New Jersey described wading to safety through "unbelievably cold" waters.

In New York state a road by a reservoir suddenly gave way, killing at least five people. Tim LaTourette, a volunteer fireman, could have been describing the entire region when he looked at the remains of the road and said: "They didn't stand a chance."

South Kingstown, Rhode Island: About 11,000 oil-coated lobsters and dozens of birds have been washed ashore here as oil spread from a leaking barge which ran aground off a wildlife refuge in a storm on Friday. A state of emergency has been declared and President Clinton promised federal disaster relief funds would be made available. (AP)

Republicans split in budget battle

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Republican Party was riven yesterday by its latest strategy to relieve political gridlock in Washington when a congressional leader said there would be no extension on the American debt unless President Clinton offered substantial budget concessions to Capitol Hill.

Richard Armitage, the House majority leader and a close ally of the Speaker, Newt Gingrich, signalled that the Republicans may be willing to use the threat of the first national default in American history to force Mr Clinton to give more ground in the impasse over a balanced budget.

Less than a week after John Kasich, chairman of the House budget committee, had



Armitage: knows where conservatives stand

said Republicans were willing to raise the limit on federal borrowing, Mr Armitage dismissed the notion.

"John Kasich's willingness to vote for it to the contrary, it is not coming through the

House unless it carries with it something that is a substantial share of our agenda of decreasing the size and intrusiveness of government," Mr Armitage said. "We have a House that is committed to getting this job done."

His comments, which also contradicted assurances last week from Mr Gingrich, brought swift reaction from the White House, which believes that such a scheme will backfire on its Republican opponents. It demanded a disclaimer from the congressional leadership.

"I would, on behalf of the White House, call upon Speaker Gingrich and majority leader [Robert] Dole to immediately repudiate Mr Armitage's remarks," Mike McCurry, the official spokesman, said. "The remarks are dangerous, they jeopardise the

economic security of the United States in the world."

Mr Armitage is known for his accurate reading of where the most conservative members of Congress stand on any issue.

They believe that any prolonged delay over raising the nation's borrowing would force the Treasury to find new techniques, including some the Clinton Administration has deemed less than legal, to raise cash to keep paying its bondholders. Options such as making use of other government money, selling or leasing gold supplies or calling in more deposits held in commercial banks, present legal obstacles.

By forcing such steps, the most conservative Republicans hope to gain political capital by convincing the public that the Treasury is manipulating public money.

Holbrooke in Cyprus peace move

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE United States is about to launch a top-priority diplomatic initiative to resolve the Cyprus problem. It will be led by Richard Holbrooke, Assistant Secretary of State and chief architect of the recent peace deal to end the war in former Yugoslavia.

Mr Holbrooke announced the peace initiative yesterday after discussing it with Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister. He said he would begin discussions in earnest as soon as a new Government was formed in Ankara, a move expected by Turkish officials within the next fortnight.

Mr Holbrooke, who arrived in Jerusalem to be presented with a medal by the World Jewish Congress for his peace-making efforts in Bosnia, dis-

closed that the Clinton Administration had been invited by all parties to the Cyprus dispute to make the new attempt to find a solution.

"We have decided that 1996 will be the year of Cyprus," Mr Holbrooke added, saying that the American-led peace mission would have secondary support from the European Union and the United Nations.

Cyprus has been divided since Turkish forces invaded the north of the island in 1974, leading to de facto partition and a ceasefire "green line" patrolled by United Nations troops. The fighting led to 200,000 Greek Cypriots leaving the north, with more than 1,600 still listed as missing.

The Turkish Cypriots, a fifth of the Cyprus population, control nearly two-fifths of the island. The American move was greeted with as much scepticism as hope in Cyprus. "We hope so, but realistically I doubt it," President Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, replied when asked if there would be a breakthrough this year. Rauf Denktas, the veteran Turkish Cypriot leader, said that Mr Holbrooke's mission could succeed only if he realised that Cyprus had two owners.

United Nations and EU officials welcomed Mr Holbrooke's involvement, but emphasised that the sheer force of one personality could not solve the problem.

□ Athens: Greece's new Socialist Government was sworn in yesterday, with Theodore

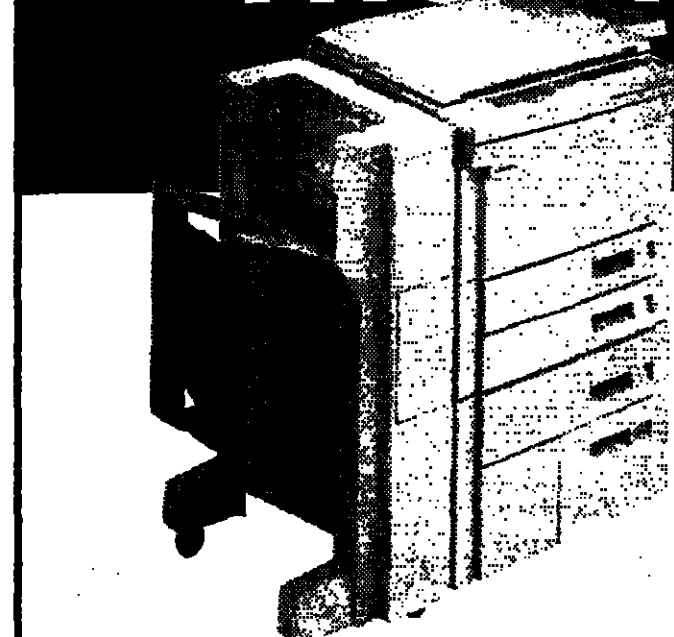
Pangalos as Foreign Minister (John Carr writes). He has been outspoken on all foreign policy issues, including Turkey, Cyprus and Macedonia.



Holbrooke: waiting for new Turkish Government

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Harriet Harman is under siege for sending her son to a grammar school. She deserves more respect, says Mary Ann Sieghart

Why Harriet decided to put motherhood first

Harriet Harman has spent all her working life trying to make the careers of motherhood and politics compatible. She has suffered the usual tensions of combining the two: the guilt, the broken nights, the twin pulls of duty. But not until this week, with her decision to send her son Joe to a grammar school, have the two come into such open and painful conflict.

Ms Harman feels that, above all else, she is a mother and is therefore determined to do the right thing by her children. Her view is that if politics make it impossible for mothers to be mothers as well as MPs, then there is something wrong with politics. And she has fought tenaciously — often against strong opposition from within her own party — for the culture of politics to change so that it can more easily accommodate her half of the population.

Labour activists may be furious with her actions. But parents all over the country will sympathise with her plight. Already she has been criticised, along with Tony Blair, for sending her elder son,

Harry, to an opted-out school, the Oratory. She could have taken the slightly easier decision to send Joe there too. But the two boys have different characters. The strict regime of the Oratory would not have suited Joe as well as the more liberal (though highly academic) St Olave's.

Moreover, Joe himself passionately wanted to go to St Olave's. A third of his classmates sat the exam and two out of his three best friends are set to go there. He looked around half a dozen schools but set his heart on St Olave's when he saw a whole room full of boys playing chess. How could his parents have said to him: "We know the school is ideal for you. We know you want to go there. We know that two of your best friends are going. But you can't because of our politics?"

Yesterday, while Ms Harman's husband, Jack Dromey, was at

home looking after their other two flu-bound children, the telephone rang constantly with messages of support from fellow MPs. They sympathised with his dilemma: some had moved house to be near good schools, others had taken a deep breath and sent their children to grant-maintained schools. Not all were "modernisers" — but all were parents.

Ms Harman will undoubtedly suffer for her choice. Her position on Labour's national executive committee will become fragile. And she may well be voted off the Shadow Cabinet too. But she would not have been able to live with herself had she compromised her son's one chance of a good education for the sake of her career. This was the ultimate selfless mother's act.

Inner-London state secondary schools are notoriously bad compared with those in the rest of the country. This poses a painful



Harriet Harman: tenacious

dilemma for female Labour MPs. Those who have a family tend to have London seats — otherwise they would never see their children. But the choice of schools is abysmal.

Ms Harman herself went to an excellent private school: St Paul's.

But her husband went to a tough urban primary and passed his eleven-plus to a Catholic grammar school. Neither is in favour of a nationwide division of schools into grammars and secondary moderns. They are, however, in favour of allowing their children a say in their own education.

The Harman-Dromey household is a very child-centred one. Paintings by the children cover the walls. Their parents have been determined to try to keep their children out of the limelight. They have disdained family photocalls since the children have been old enough to understand what was happening. When Mr Dromey was running for election for the top job at the Transport and General Workers' Union, he refused to allow newspapers to photograph him with his children.

That is why both parents were particularly upset at the hounding of Joe by photographers yesterday.

As he left home with his father to go to school, he was besieged, and finally ran into a fence trying to escape a snapper careering towards him. Ms Harman complained to the Press Complaints Commission, but the flu-ridden house, with curtains drawn, was still surrounded well into the afternoon.

Ms Harman, meanwhile, was off to discover her fate in the House. Determined not to resign, she nevertheless felt under tremendous pressure. This is not her first political setback: two years ago, she was voted off the Shadow Cabinet in a chauvinist plot against the reservation of places for women. John Smith, however, gave her a job regardless, to the fury of many colleagues.

To exacerbate the hostility from other MPs, her life so far has been easier than most of theirs. The daughter of a Harley Street consultant and niece of Lord Long-

ford, she had a good private education and worked for the National Council for Civil Liberties before entering Parliament. Her marriage to Mr Dromey is, in class terms, an unlikely one. But he is proud and supportive of her and, despite his own career ambitions, they have reached a working arrangement that enables the children to thrive, through a process of what he describes as "military organisation". He may not be enough of a new man to get up for them in the night; but they do, in compensation, bear her surname.

Now she will have to face the wrath of Labour activists and not a few MPs. Mr Blair is likely to back her: she advised him of her decision before it became public, and he considers it to be a personal matter. He is well aware of the support she has won from thousands of working mothers who see their own problems reflected in her. If Harriet Harman is forced to resign her job for being a good mother, they may never forgive the Labour Party.

Bringing celebrity to book



Publishers have discovered that even a bad novel by a famous fashion model or a New York socialite will outsell a work of literary genius. Joe Joseph wonders why

We all admire great novelists because we know just how hard it is to write a successful piece of fiction without a sharp ear for words, a good plot — and plenty of international catwalk experience, like Naomi Campbell. At the very least it helps to have your own parliamentary constituency, like Edwina Currie.

Currie next week publishes her second parliamentary "book-buster", *A Woman's Place*. Sara Keays, Cecil Parkinson's former mistress, will soon let us read her debut novel, *A Black Book*. Currie and Keays are the latest in a catalogue of celebrity novelists who have turned the traditional literary equation on its head. In olden days, people who didn't know any better wrote novels which, if they were consistently good, made their authors famous: this was the fuddy-duddy route trodden by Greene and Hemingway and Dickens. Now you become famous first and then write a novel. Or, better, get someone else to write it for you.

Over the past couple of years we have seen novels from such well-known women of letters as Naomi Campbell, Ivana Trump, Britt Ekland and the former model Jilly Johnson. Even Willie Shoemaker, the American jockey, has published a ghost-written race-course thriller called *Stalking Horse*. Some publishers are now suggesting that the Duchess of York's surest way of clearing her debts would be to write a really salty blockbuster about life inside the palace. Why?

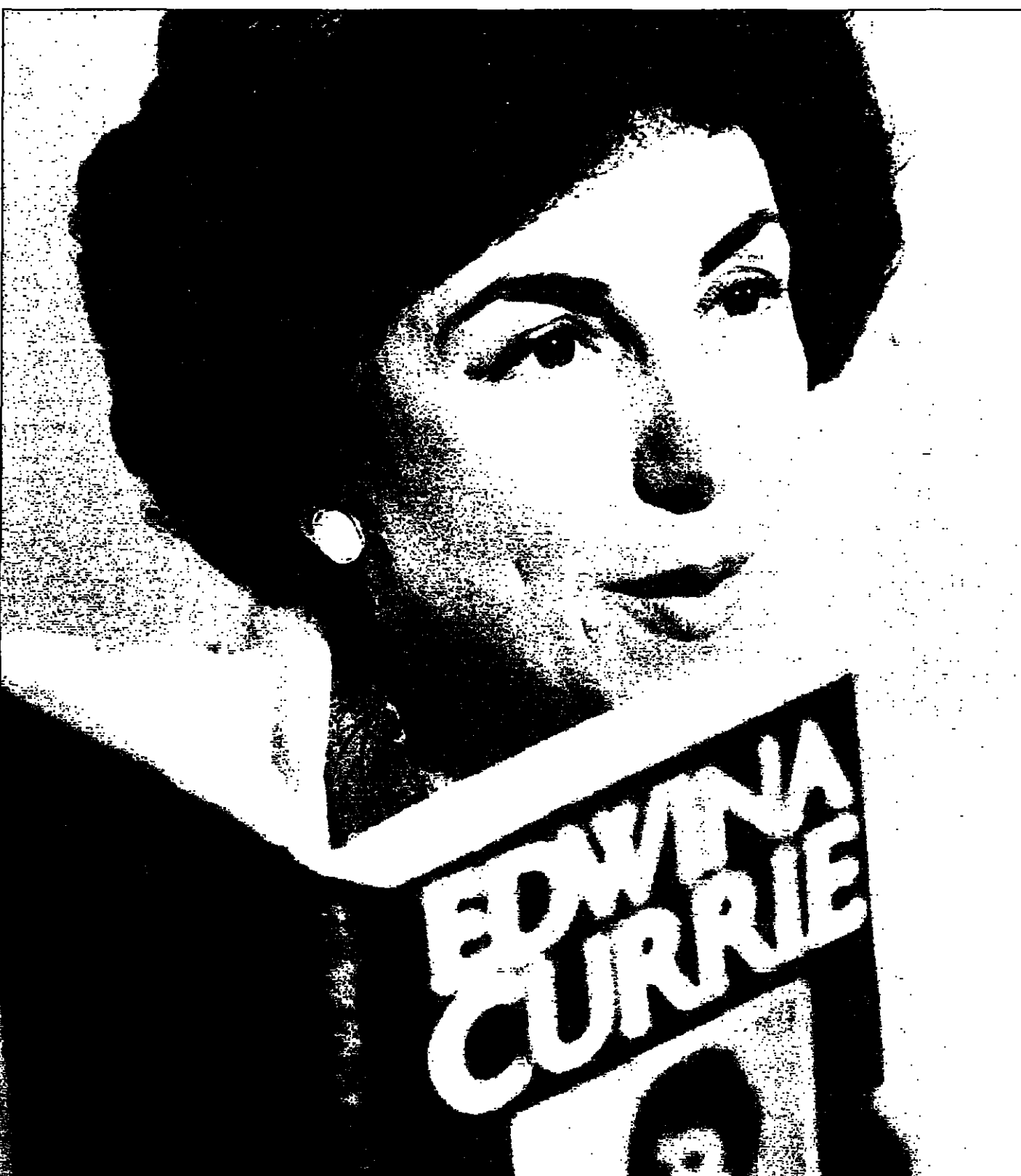
If Peter Ackroyd isn't running for Parliament, and Anita Brookner isn't modelling Versace's spring collection, why do MPs, fashion models and penniless royals feel they should write novels? Even François Mitterrand, we hear, asked to write a novel — just as Napoleon had before him. At least Currie writes her own books. And she is proving to be making a good stab — and a good living — at it. Her new novel does not stray very far from the territory

explored in her first, *A Parliamentary Affair*, which has sold an impressive 350,000 copies in Britain and the Commonwealth. *A Woman's Place* revolves around homophobic MPs who are exposed as being secretly gay while Elaine Stalker, MP, is abducted by a sexually-fixated care-in-the-community patient.

"Underneath the sex and the humour, the novel is intended to have a serious theme," says Currie, who makes sure she is never knowingly undersold. "It is designed to expose the decline of Parliament and the appalling treatment of women there."

The cases of Campbell and Trump are rather more audacious, in that both acknowledge that they provided little more than the gist of the literary efforts that appeared under their names. These are women who probably couldn't even produce a complete shopping list. Campbell's *Swan* was written with the "collaboration" of Caroline Upcher, an in-house prose doctor at Campbell's publisher, Heinemann. And when Trump decided there was life after Donald she published *For Love Alone* — the tale of Katrina, a former Czech model who marries a New York property tycoon, rides the 1980s social whirl and divorces after he falls for a strumpet. It was largely written by Camille Marchetta, a one-time scriptwriter for *Dallas* and *Dynasty*, though Trump did frame the plot and hand Marchetta a tape recording of some of her thoughts.

Both these books mark an amazing breakthrough in the world of letters: all you now need to become a successful novelist is literary ambition, and someone to fulfil it for you. The ghost-writer probably gets paid a large fee, plus maybe an extra £5,000 for not laughing right down the phone when Campbell's agency calls up and says Naomi has decided that, what with it being a rainy Sunday afternoon, and her having a couple of hours to kill, she thought she'd write a novel — that is, if Ms Upcher is feeling up to it.



Fame is the spur: unlike some celebrity novelists, at least Edwina Currie writes her own books — and is making a good living at it

If you're wondering why, in view of my feelings, I still spend £10 on Trump's or Campbell's book, I'm not that stupid. I'm much more stupid than that. I bribe someone an extra fiver to go and buy the book for me because I'm too embarrassed to go into Waterstone's and buy it myself. It is this shameless nosiness that has made publishers realise that a bad novel by a famous fashion model will outsell a work of genius. Why

should anyone care that *Swan* would only be recognisable as a novel if studied from a great distance?

The celebrity novelist comes into her own on the publicity circuit. If Trump is not a born writer, she is a born publicist. "It's a wonderful, wonderful book," she gushed in one interview. "To my surprise I find I have a great imagination."

Others have, too. Joan Collins has penned a novel, *Prime Time*. So

has Mandy Rice-Davis, *The Scarlet Thread*. Martina Navratilova and William Shatner as well. Max Bygraves has tried to get his idea for a novel published and Tom Jones can't interest anyone in his down publicist. "It's a wonderful, wonderful book," she gushed in one interview. "To my surprise I find I have a great imagination."

We wouldn't stomach Ivana Trump singing *Così Fan Tutti* at Covent Garden. If Martina Navratilova decided she'd like to run the British Museum, we'd tell

her to think again. But we not only let these people write novels, we buy them. Novels have become the first refuge of celebrities looking for cash or a second flush of fame. "I don't say I'm the Shakespeare," Trump told *Vanity Fair*, "but it's not just about the beautiful people and the gorgeous yachts and the fabulous homes and lots of sex. I tried to put in more of the feelings." Well... Ms Marchetta did.

● Nigella Lawson is on holiday

When girls fall out

We all know that compared with men, women are saner, nicer, often brighter, make better parents, and always react more thoughtfully when annoyed. This is because men are short-tempered and impetuous, while women know that reacting like fat in a fire is plain foolish. Smart women count to ten before snapping, because this gives enough time to compose the sort of really inventive abuse that doesn't come on the spur of the moment.

The Princess of Wales and her sons' nanny, Tiggy Legge-Bourke, are the latest two women to show us that, as a spectator sport, cat-fighting between women is more bruising than anything Mike Tyson could deliver at his peak.

When girls fall out, they don't settle the matter once and for all the way sensible grown men do, by, say, shooting each other. Feuding women bitch behind backs, leave sizzling messages on answering machines, and cast innuendoes that men find anatomically perplexing. Men blackball enemies from their club, women call their lawyers. That's what Ms Legge-Bourke has done to clear her name, which she says Princess Diana has besmirched in some yet-to-be-revealed way.

Libel lawyer Peter Carter-Ruck, acting on behalf of Prince Charles's personal assistant, has written to the Princess of Wales's lawyers demanding a retraction of "false allegations" about Tiggy.

But what was it that Di hissed at 30-year-old Tiggy at the staff Christmas party that Diana and Charles hosted a month ago at London's Lanesborough Hotel? It certainly wasn't "Look sharp Tiggy, all Will's socks were mismatched the last time he came to visit me." Can't have been: "You're such a super skier, Tiggy, that I just don't know how you summon the energy for such an exhausting life." Or even the deadly: "You must meet my sister-in-law, Fergie. You're so similar that I'm certain you'd get on like a house on fire."

Last year's spat between the sisterly feminists Germaine Greer and Suzanne Moore of *The Guardian* was a revelation to many who hadn't known that Ms Moore shows "three fat inches of cleavage", or that she wears shoes capable of having intercourse, until Ms Greer pointed this out.

But women have always been bitches, even about the opposite sex. When Noël Coward told Dorothy Parker: "You almost look like a man," Parker spat straight back: "So do you." Compared with W.C. Fields's description of Mae West as "a plumber's idea of Cleopatra" it's almost a compliment.

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Last chance for Forte — and the City

William Rees-Mogg warns against Granada's bid out of hell

The Granada-Forte offer is a bid out of hell, one of those bids which damage all those who have any part in them, except for some of the people who get the big fees. Already the costs are astronomical. Granada admits to costs of more than £100 million. Forte can hardly be less than £50 million, which Granada shareholders would have to pay.

Granada, if successful, will have restructuring costs which have been estimated at another £300 million and will be selling £2 billion of assets, again incurring fees which are hardly likely to be less than £40 million. Then there is tax. I do not believe for a moment that the Inland Revenue will allow any avoidance of the capital gains tax on disposals, which should come to £400 million. That adds up to about £900 million of actual or potential costs — getting on for a third of the value of Forte as a whole before the bid. If one allows that Granada will be a forced seller of whatever it does sell, this bid could easily cost its shareholders £1 billion, on top of the risks of a colossal debt. This is not good management.

That should do nicely for Granada. What will the bid do for Forte? If Granada wins, it will dismember Britain's only big international hotel company, which at present owns some of the best hotels in the world, and runs them very well. It will break up the staff and the management. It is not fashionable in Britain nowadays to build businesses rather than buy them; this bid is not going to encourage it.

That should do nicely for Forte. What will the bid do for the shareholders? Collectively they have owned two companies with excellent prospects. If Granada wins, they will then own one badly overborrowed conglomerate with dubious prospects. The management will be absorbed in trying to repay the new debts. Consider the difficult position of Mercury Asset Management. It holds about 15 per cent of both companies in the pension funds that it presently advises. After the bid, if it succeeds, these pension funds will still own approximately the same underlying assets, less their share of Granada's lost £1 billion. Whatever the paper profit might be, the pension funds will have £150 million less in underlying assets.

That is not the sort of investment management that Siegmund Warburg would have approved of, nor is there any reason why the pension funds should be pleased with it. In any case, Mercury Asset Management, if it accepted the offer, would be criticised as the firm that decided the battle, and got it wrong. To take on the responsibility of restructuring British industry without being qualified to do so must be bad business. The number of executives of Mercury Asset Management with senior management experience in the world outside finance is quite small.

Bad for Granada, bad for

Forte, bad for Mercury Asset Management, but also bad for the City as a whole. I hate to see the City repeating its past mistakes, including all the foolishnesses of rash bids, bid debts and short-term banking. That always ends in trouble, and it will again.

Of course, we have a pathetically weak City at the moment, after a badly botched recession, with a poorly led Bank of England, a disastrous Lloyd's, and most of our biggest merchant banks bust or sold. I cannot remember a time when the City seemed in worse shape in terms of its own management record. It is preposterous for the executives of such a City to be restructuring the rest of British industry; their own current record does not begin to qualify them to do the job.

The Government is not likely to be pleased; indeed it will lose out as well. The whole Granada scheme turns on a massive implausible proposal for tax avoidance, equal in value to 10 per cent of the total bid. The Treasury cannot possibly allow that to succeed, but the Government can still be embarrassed by its impotence. It can also be embarrassed by the gratuitous demonstration that private enterprise in the modern City actually does mean short-term speculation, greedy fees, and industrial restructuring by non-industrial fund managers. Many takeovers do make good industrial sense, but this one has only a speculative logic. That is exactly what socialists have criticised the City for over the years; we did not need to have it demonstrated, or to have Granada throw away £1 billion. Destroy a good company, create a bad one, put in a bill for a few hundred million pounds, and then try to avoid the tax — that is modern City statesmanship.

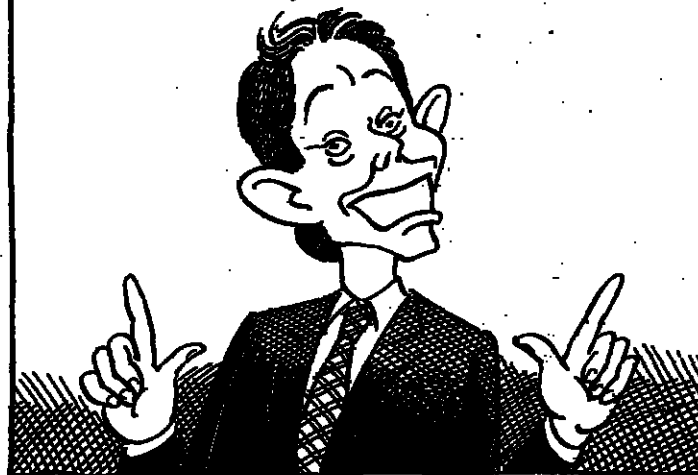
Furthermore, the Government will probably lose some money on the deal. Granada still thinks it can avoid the capital gains tax. That will not happen. But there is another tax scheme in the special dividend proposal, which might well cost the taxpayer £40 million. If the City had any wisdom, and at present it has very little, the idea of making bids in tax avoidance form would be rejected instantly. When loopholes are closed, there is always a tax cost to genuine business. The City will pay for the Granada bid in higher taxes and in more regulations. Probably the institutions are going to accept this bid today. They will get what they deserve. They will get the over-leveraged conglomerate which Granada has decided to be. They will destroy one of Britain's major international companies. They will lose a big share of £1 billion for their investors. They will invite new and damaging scrutiny of the way that they manage funds. They will bring further discredit on the City. The trouble is that when people are very short-sighted, very stupid and very greedy, there is no way of saving them from themselves.

I cannot remember when the City was in worse shape

WE'VE HAD A BIT OF A RETHINK...



... A BRAND NEW SLOGAN.



... AND WE'VE COME UP WITH...



MISTAKE HOLDING.



Give the Yorks a break

The hounding of the Duchess is intended to force another divorce

I am too old and dignified for bungee-jumping, too law-abiding to parachute off the Hilton, and Suffolk lacks any local facilities for wing-walking or crocodile-wrestling. But one can still live dangerously. Today, alone and without a safety-net or body armour, I propose to say a few words in defence of HRH the Duchess of York.

This perilously dissident course of action has been forced on me by the fact that in all the torrent of words about her this past week there has been no serious attempt to say a kind one or even a fair one. In these dull, broke grey days after Christmas, the nation has warmed itself gladly at the flames of her burning.

The Palace seemed to give permission for this when it distanced itself from her in a swift and over-polite statement. The Duchess appears to believe that the original story about her debts also came from the Palace, or at the very least from those embarrassingly loyal "friends" it suffers from and who heartily wish her to be cut off from it legally and forever. Certainly it seems odd that the story of the overdraft, and the suggestion that she expected the Queen to pay, should have broken while the Duchess was actually involved in signing commercial deals to solve the whole mess. Someone must have wanted her to look bad, must they not? "Entrepreneurial Duchess solves debt problem with £3m deal" is not such a tasty story as "Selfish spendthrift Duchess in debt, expects Our Gracious Queen to bail her out".

Whatever chalk-striped lago gave the first memoir the debt revelation has been followed by a frenzy of insult — not even innuendo, nothing so subtle. The easy opinion is that the Duchess of York is a good-time girl, a glutton, a wastrel, a blatant adulteress, mercenary self-publicist, lousy writer and bad dresser. As Lord Charteris is quoted as having said, "vulgar, vulgar, vulgar". She was accused of wanting to be a queen not of our hearts but our wallets: of being Freddie Fergie, letting down the frugal Queen. (Never mind that the whole history of royalty is a history of grabbing and excess, or that even in this century Queen Mary was famous for soliciting expensive gifts from her hosts' side-tables, so that they had to be the best stuff when she visited. Fergie at least wrote the books before taking the money.)

Some of the accusations are justified, but others are wild extrapolation, encouraged by the fact that she takes the sunny view of publicity and rarely shows any hostility towards the media in return. But everything she does is flung back at her as a weapon. When the reporters shouted "Are you on the breadline?" she tried a joke. "I don't eat bread!" the ghost of Marie Antoinette was called up (a mistake, since decent historians agree that Marie Antoinette never said it, and was in fact much inclined towards welfare and reform). In one Sunday

see her awkward, bouncing tactlessness, but not the underlying honesty and directness.

Nor do they register that the hostile whispers do not come from "friends" of her husband. This is not another Charles-and-Di case, a shamming public battle. The York children are not publicly pawns like their unfortunate cousins. All we know about Beatrice and Eugenie is that they are two little girls in hair-ribbons. It has probably helped that whenever the paparazzi do catch them on a school run, they are too busy snapping Fergie's latest pair of riotous leggings to notice the children. The princesses may have suffered the mild exploitation of being photographed in *Hello!* magazine to boost their mother's finances, but at least they do not get dressed up in opposing sets of clothes, tweed versus baseball-caps, for cynical photo-opportunities by warring parents. Nor do they have their intimate sadnesses paraded by the kind of mother who goes on *Panorama* and relates little personal stories about how her boy gave her a box of chocolates "because you've been hurt, Mummy". Though fifth and sixth in line to the throne, these princesses' lives are surprisingly private. Even the holidaymaking could be interpreted as protection for them: if the world's press is after you, it makes sense to choose a Thai beach rather than a cheap Spanish one.

Moreover, the Yorks have done their children a favour by continuing, throughout their separation, to meet, talk, dine publicly together and share Christmas morning. The Duke of York — even in the darkest period, the Johnny Bryan interlude — has never sanctioned any criticism of his wife; nor has she used any of her racy media appearances to bad-mouth him. They have done the hardest and most civilised of things, and stayed friends.

This says a great deal for the courage and understanding of the Duke of York, these days a modest and diligent naval officer. But it also

says something for his wife. How many couples could weather the chaotic tackiness, the mistakes, the public humiliation of the past few years with so little apparent bitterness? There is, if we could only see it, an example here, and one which is ironically topical.

For Parliament is about to discuss the divorce law reform Bill, and many noises will be made by statesmen and churchmen about the need for time and effort to "bring marriages back from the brink".

The great and the good — some of them the very ones who hate the Duchess — say that we must at all costs discourage any idea that the marriage contract is something to be thrown aside at the first difficulty, or even the second or third adultery. There must, they say, be mediation and long periods of reflection. And all the time, here in front of our eyes are a couple who for three years have carried on talking. It is rumoured that they were seriously discussing a full reconciliation just before last week's blaze of hostile publicity. The Duchess is said to believe that the two things are not unconnected: that those who want her out of the Royal Family have started this rumour on purpose to bounce the Queen into demanding another divorce. We are free to believe that or not. On balance, I think I do.

This is not a fan letter to the Duchess of York. She has in many respects been a fool; she has not played the mental-illness card, but I suspect that she may have been at one stage more than a little disturbed in her judgment, and a prey to disastrous impulses and influences. But there is some credit due to her, and she does not get it.

She never has. Look back through the archives and you see that long before she did anything wrong, this royal bride alienated a certain very British, very repressive and repressed temperament which is heavily present in both media and Establishment. Her offence was not what she did but what she was: noisy and exuberant, informal and tactless, buxom and vital. I am afraid that the offended people — alas, not all of them men — prefer their young women to be pale, sad, shy, starveling victims. Which is why the Princess of Wales will always have defenders whatever she does; and why the Duchess of York, whatever she does, will not.

Libby Purves

And it never stops: the pack of mercenary media psychiatrists is called in to rake over her childhood (why are these people not stuck off for giving opinions on patients they have not met?); journalists who haven't paid for a holiday in years intend to condemn her profligacy; newspapers which spend most of their time attacking single mothers on benefit suddenly find time for things to quote from despairing ones who would love to have a fraction of Fergie's allowance; and from Lord Dacre to Lord Deedes to Sir John Junor ("the sooner the Royal Family is shot of her the better"); the grandees shake their silver heads. Dreadful woman. She has to go.

They give her no credit for her good-humour, nor for her charity work or the fact that she scrupulously pays her own fares to it (though tellingly, an airline source observed that while she has the honesty to book first-class, the other royals book Club and "expect to be upgraded"). Critics

A spectre haunting Labour

Anatole Kaletsky

on the book behind

Blair's big idea

Child prostitutes swarm the streets. The poor are dying of malnutrition and illiteracy is spreading like an epidemic. The factories are shuttered by greedy bankers, and their idle workers roam the world aimlessly, contemplating suicide. Those who cannot face death vent their anger through drugs or violence. The Government is a cockpit of lechery and corruption. Meanwhile the top-hatted "gentlemen capitalists" who have sucked the lifeblood from society plot to sell the country to foreigners.

Is this Weimar Germany before Hitler? Or the Philippines under Marcos? Come on, can't you recognise your own country? Doesn't this description remind you of Purley High Street on a Saturday afternoon?

I admit I have exaggerated a little. The book from which I have pieced together this account of today's Britain does not actually say that the "gentlemen capitalists" wear top hats. But everything else — including the reference to "the ugly growth of child prostitution" — is straight from the most important and successful book on British politics since 1979.

The *State We're In* by Will Hutton has sold 50,000 copies in hardback and has now soared to the top of the paperback bestseller lists. The latest surge in sales is hardly surprising, since the book offers the only detailed account of the "big idea" espoused by the man who will almost certainly run the next British government. But Hutton's book, the *locus classicus* of Tony Blair's "stakeholder capitalism", deserves an even bigger market. Indeed, if Tony Blair really means by a stakeholder's Britain, it should be enough to terrify most of the moderate, sceptical, middle class.

Moderate voters with a knowledge of economics and finance will, I think, be shocked at how detailed and revolutionary is the blueprint of "stakeholderism": a Government direction of bank lending, compulsory worker directors on company boards, full employment rights for casual workers, rationing of mortgage lending, average tax rates of 50 per cent for the rich, renationalisation of pensions, and the "old Labour" idea of a state-owned national investment bank — all these figure prominently in Hutton's plans.

His book is suffused with a hatred of capitalism which would do Tony Blair proud — or even Karl Marx. Yet the greatest flaw from an economic standpoint is not his concentration on the failures of capitalism, but that he misses the biggest market failure of all. While Hutton devotes hundreds of pages to obscure theories of market efficiency and financial regulation, he virtually ignores the real reason why the Tory economic record must be counted a failure: the grotesque mismanagement of monetary and exchange rate policy which led to the two deepest post-war recessions.

Successive Tory Chancellors, in the grip of dogmatic pre-Keynesian theories of monetarism, stubbornly refused to fight unemployment with pragmatic policies of demand management — at least until their hands were forced on White Wednesday.

Ironically, it is this same failure of macroeconomic policy that accounts for the parlous condition of the great stakeholder economies which Hutton and Blair would have Britain emulate — Germany, Japan and France. Meanwhile America, which has successfully embraced a policy of unabashed Keynesian demand management, is emerging clearly as the economic success of the 1990s. The tragedy of the stakeholder concept is that by making society cope better with high levels of unemployment, it actually seems to make people more tolerant of sado-monetarist deflation, and so reduces the pressure on governments to create jobs by stimulating growth.

But even more terrifying than Hutton's economics is the revolutionary fervour of what he describes as his "call to arms". Britain, in his view, is rotten from top to bottom. Almost everything that has happened in the 17 years of Tory rule has been an unmitigated disaster. From the Royal Family and the constitution to the management of the arts, Britain must submit to the purgative power of revolutionary destruction. "No state in the 20th century has ever been able to recast its economy, political structures and society to the extent that Britain must do without suffering defeat in war, economic collapse or revolution."

This, I suspect, is not the message that voters think they are hearing from "new" Labour. Tony Blair's popularity stems from his moderate, common-sense pragmatism and apparent belief that many of the changes in Tory Britain have been for the better. Yet behind the bland technocratic "stakeholder" slogan there seems to lurk a longing to undo everything the Tories have done since 1979. Perhaps this is not what Mr Blair means, but in Will Hutton's hands, the stake is a sharp one — and it is aimed straight for the capitalist vampire's heart.

Not joking

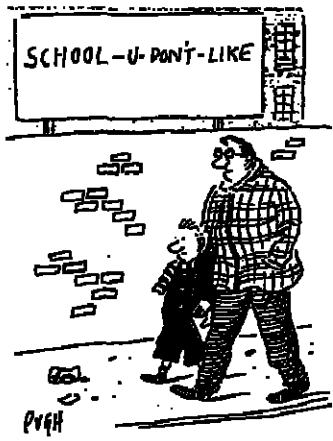
JOHN MAJORS burly biographer, muse and supporter, Bruce Anderson, is not a man to punch when crushing insults are needed. Yet look below the rancour and you will find a sensitive soul. He is mortified by the suggestion that he laughs at jokes about John Major.

A letter he received from one Robert Schuettinger, an Oxford don who worked for the Pentagon in the Reagan era, harbours the recollection that Anderson "always laughed loudest at any humorous reference to Mr Major". The suggestion, offered for publication in *The Spectator* where Anderson is a columnist, is strenuously denied — and he replied to that effect immediately.

"This is a black lie. Not only is it a black lie it is a slanderous black lie. In that it accuses me of hypocrisy," he wrote. "I suspect that you had assistants who helped you... But you should beware the letter was offered under your name. Even a crushed catpaw can suffer acute pain."

"I am writing to warn you," he goes on. "If you ever repeat your slander... I will, without warning, send in my learned friends. They

will back punitive damages out of your hide. Anderson was sanguine yesterday. "If there is a topic on which I have a sense of humour failure, it's John Major," he said. "The letter suggests that I gibe at him behind his back while supporting him in public. It makes me appear a hypocrite." Frank Johnson, *The Spectator's* Editor, backs him up: "Bruce is about the only person in Britain who would not laugh at a joke about John Major."



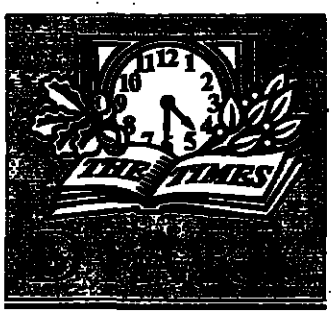
Old hands were less than surprised that the Princess of Wales and her private secretary, Patrick Jephson, parted company yesterday. Flying back from her recent trip to Argentina, the Princess booked two first-class seats. She took one, her hairdresser was given the other. Jephson was booted down to club class.

Paris Match

JUST AS England lost by a whisker to the French at the weekend, so the Commons and Lords rugby team fell at the hands of the French National Assembly by just a single point.

Our parliamentarians managed to maintain their composure until after the game — but then a burn-fight broke out.

The Brits started lobbing bread rolls at the post-match dinner. Within minutes, baguettes were thicker in the air than Frenchmen on the field at the Parc des Princes. Lord Redesdale, the towering Liberal Democrat peer, bopped his second-row team-mate Jim Parson on the nose to dampen his enthusiasm. Parson was philosophical: "These things happen at four in the morning." Others were less charitable. "Redesdale was acting like a prefect who wanted to be head boy," complained a scrum-magger.



With offices in Belgravia and the Duke of Kent as its patron, the Ski Club of Great Britain isn't perhaps the first place one would look for train-spotters. But the club appears to be plumbing new depths in its search for members. Its new magazine on the Internet is called *Anorak*.

Dry cellar

EMPTY TANKARDS are the sad sight at Gonville and Caius, the Cambridge college founded in 1348. The fellows have closed the cellar bar after a party there, organised by impostors, spiralled out of control.

The Fitzwilliam Vikings, a drinking society banned from its own berth, Fitzwilliam College, are being blamed for the disorder, which resulted in damaged prop-

erty and one student being found slumped unconscious in the porter's lodge. Dr Mark Bailey, acting senior tutor at Caius, says the closure was precipitated by the party. "This had particularly distressing consequences," he says. Not least for the Caius students who, with throats as dry as Bath Olivers, are planning revenge on Fitzwilliam.

On the stump yesterday for his new ultra-socialist party in the Hemsforth by-election, Arthur Scargill was dismissive of Tony Blair's stakeholder economy. "I have heard that it's suffering from BSE already," he said. Scargill is continuing to sign up radical blood — his latest recruit is called Serj, whose father was Britain's first Communist MP, Shapurji Saklatvala, in the 1920s.

One's vote

NORMAN LAMONT's selection for Harrogate will come as a blow to the beleaguered Queen, for she came within a curtsy of seeing her own flesh and blood in the House of Commons. One of the two defeated candidates, Ian Liddell-Grainger, is of the monarch's line — a fact he coyly omitted from his curriculum vitae.



Alice: long-lived

Her Majesty's second cousin, He is directly descended from Queen Victoria through his mother Anne, a grand-daughter of Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, who features in *The Guinness Book of Records* as the oldest ever royal — dying in 1981 aged 97. Longevity is in the blood, so he may be in with a second chance.

P.H.S



HARRIET AND HYPOCRISY

But politicians have not always been so harshly judged

If the dashing young technocrat leading Labour had been Harold Wilson not Tony Blair, Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a selective school would not have made her position on the front bench so uncomfortable. Hypocrisy may always have been the compliment that vice has paid virtue; but it has not always been the most politically damaging of charges. Nor should it be.

The criticism which Harriet Harman has endured from her party (it has been no less wounding for being *sotto voce*) is one of the last relics of the Benetton that nearly sunk Labour in the early eighties. The changes wrought by the Left then, most notably the mandatory reselection of constituency members, meant MPs had to change from being all-too-human advocates for improvement to living advertisements for socialist virtue. The electorate may have been prepared to tolerate inconsistencies, frailties and dissent: party cadres would not.

The grip on Labour exerted by activists during the Eighties meant that even the most talented of aspirant MPs had to conform to prejudices which were common to party members but at variance with voters' priorities. Unilateralism and a united Ireland were just two touchstone issues. Even the candidate for Sedgfield in 1983 felt compelled to parade his CND card and argue withdrawal from Europe.

Before the hegemony of the hard Left Labour MPs found it easier to argue that ability mattered more than purity. Harold Wilson presided over a Government in which his Education Secretary, Tony Crosland, was trying to close every grammar school in the land. But he sent his own son to the fee-paying University College School in Hampstead. In the same Cabinet both Douglas Jay and Roy Jenkins sent their sons to Winchester. The political culture of the time made it easier to separate private conduct from public rhetoric. It was thought

not only possible, but often desirable, to judge an argument on its merits rather than with reference to the character of the apologist.

Most recently it has been the Tories, not Labour, who have suffered for practising what they have preached against. The collapse of "back to basics" since the tragicomic weller of scandal in the winter of 1994 not only exposed the dangers of politicians in the pulpit; it also showed how the Right was in danger of infection with the puritan rigour once the preserve of the Left. The Whiggish tolerance of personal permissiveness which once characterised the Conservatives and allowed elites their indulgences had been replaced by a new censoriousness.

Now Labour is in trouble. Ms Harman was left yesterday to draw the distinction between what she thought right for her son in the specific circumstances of Peckham in 1996 and the general benefits which Labour policy will bring Britain hereafter. Few are likely to have been convinced by her — except to the extent that she was right to put her child before politics. In the current climate, for which Labour is partly itself to blame, she has damaged her own prospects and those of her party for as long as its prejudiced education policy remains in force.

But perhaps she will hasten a relaxation of that policy. The Tories meanwhile should avoid harping too much on the hypocrisy theme. Man's fallen nature means even, and perhaps especially, the best of us are flawed and inconsistent creatures. Better to have principles and falter than abandon them for fear of being held a hypocrite. Better still to be true to a mother's heart than a politician's head. Better even to be a hypocrite on one principle than a parent who denied her child an opportunity in the name of socialist ideology. It would be a most ignoble sacrifice if she laid down his chances of a better life for the better chance of new Labour.

RAIS ARAFAT

How to keep Hamas both down and out

There are several stories to relate from the first elections ever held by Palestinians for Palestinians. The first and most obvious tale is that of Yasser Arafat: he won, emphatically, the post of *rais* (or "leader") and is effectively the first President of Palestine. Neither "president" nor "Palestine" can be found as yet on any document to which the Israelis have lent their imprimatur; and there can be no assurance that either will win Israeli favour in the near future. Yet Mr Arafat and the Palestinians who live in their fractured territory have now entered a new phase in their history. The people of Israel enter that phase as well, for their country changes with every change in the status of the Palestinians by whose side they live.

The other important tale from the weekend's election concerns Hamas, the Islamic extremist party which boycotted the polls and urged its supporters to do so too. Its call, it appears, was widely ignored: in excess of 75 per cent of voters participated in the elections. That figure must constitute a stinging rejoinder for Hamas. Given that Yahya Ayyash, the alleged Hamas mastermind of several bombings in Israel, was killed only a few days ago — the party must have expected his death to strengthen the boycott — the turnout was high indeed. Hamas's decision to boycott the polls, when most psephologists predicted that the party might reap nearly 20 per cent of the votes cast, must today seem a blunder.

But is it a blunder for which we should be grateful? Mr Arafat was barely challenged in the race for *rais*: Samiha Khalil, his opponent, was such a poor match that this is one 88.1 per cent victory that we should not mock too readily. It is to the election of the Palestinian Legislative Council — which ran

parallel to the one that brought personal victory to Mr Arafat — that we must look for a more complete reading of the mood in Gaza and the West Bank.

Mr Arafat's Fatah faction may appear to have won a comfortable majority there, too. But beware of hasty analyses: early accounts show that nearly a third of the seats in the 88-member council have been won by independents who, in all cases, defeated an Arafat-sponsored Fatah candidate. This constitutes an impressive bloc of opposition after such a climate of intimidation, the gerrymandering, the last-minute changes to electoral rules and regulations and the absence from the contest of Hamas. Prominent independents include Haidar Abdel Shafi, the former chief Palestinian negotiator in talks with Israel; Hanan Ashrawi, than whom there are few in the region more articulate; and Abdel-Jawad Salih. There are others: these are only the three most prominent.

There is, in all this, a warning to be given. Hamas has its back to the wall: how will it react? A violent response might easily be predicted but its discomfiture today has a difference dimension. If it is not in a position of strength, this is not because a military blow was dealt to the party: it suffers instead from a form of popular rejection. Its call for a boycott was treated by ordinary Palestinians with appropriate contempt. Mr Arafat, Hamas's bitter opponent, has for the first time a mandate which is legitimate. How he uses that mandate will determine, in large part, the future of groups like Hamas. If he acts wisely, and ensures the swift emergence of a responsible administration, he will insulate his victory from future shock. If he does not, Hamas is still ready to haunt the peace process.

ULTIMA HIBERNIA

The bull that is Erin, the grandeur that was Rome

Two fundamental axioms about Ireland that every schoolchild once learnt were that Ireland was free (a) from snakes and (b) from Romans. Both axioms now appear to be wild Irish bull. There are snakes in Ireland: the notion that St Patrick cleansed the Emerald Isle of reptiles is a pious myth. Dr Johnson asserted that the sentence "There are no snakes to be met with throughout the whole island" was a complete chapter in the natural history of Ireland. And he may have been pulling legs. Samuel's joke was ascribed to an imaginary volume on Ireland.

But at least every schoolchild knew that Ireland was supposed to have been the only European country to have been left out of the original Roman Empire. Until now the Irish were said to have escaped colonisation until Henry II and the Plantagenets arrived, having been granted imperial overlordship by Pope Adrian, followed by Tudors, Oliver Cromwell, settlers inside the pale and waves of Scots and English.

Until now the aboriginal Irish were supposed to have lived in a romantic Celtic twilight on the wild west outpost of the Roman empire, with their civilisation and culture uncontaminated by the rest of Europe. Great Gaels and wild myths ruled rather than conquerors. There are no references to the conquest of Ireland in classical literature. Any Roman artefacts found in Ireland have been explained as

imports by fast-talking, fast-running Irish dealers. Now Ireland's hidden Roman past has been exposed. A huge Roman coastal fort has been turned up at Drumahaire, 15 miles north of Dublin. It looks like a Roman beach-head built to support an invasion in the 2nd century. Coins have been found there from the reigns of Titus, Hadrian and Trajan, and jewellery and weapons have been taken to the museum in Dublin.

This site could be one of the discoveries of the century. It conforms to the Roman imperial strategy of the period of soldiering ever onwards to find secure frontiers. If confirmed, it will rewrite serious Roman history — and even Asterix and Celtic nationalism. Although this Roman connection has been known to archaeologists and the National Museum of Ireland for more than a decade, it has leaked out only now.

No doubt the Irish scholars wanted to secure the purchase of the site from its owner and perfect their research before they published. Perhaps they hoped to keep the lucrative secret from imperialist publishers. But the Irish should certainly not be ashamed that they too were part of the Roman Empire. Their Irish traditions of hard fighting, fine writing, classical scholarship, jokes and even rugby have often combined Celtic wildness with a fierce Roman discipline. It was always obvious that under the skin they were brothers as well as rivals of the other British.

Use of juries in fraud trials

From Lord Donaldson of Lynton

Sir, I hope that any reconsideration of the use of juries in fraud trials (leading article, "In the dock", January 20) will not confuse complication with length.

In the absence of research, which I should welcome, we know nothing about the extent (if any) to which the traditional English jury has difficulty in deciding issues of guilt in complicated cases. The assumption is that most such cases turn in the end upon the jury being sure that the accused acted dishonestly, and I have no reason to doubt that this is an issue which a traditional jury is fully capable of deciding.

The traditional English jury consists of 12 men and women selected at random from the jury lists for the locality. Subject to any distortion due to the fact that there are only 12 jurors, each jury can be expected to be broadly representative of the inhabitants of the area. This is the jury which tries cases estimated to last up to three to four weeks.

Cases estimated to last months rather than weeks, such as the Maxwell trial (reports, January 20 and 22), are a relatively new phenomenon. They are not tried by traditional juries but by a new variety of the species, consisting of men and women specially selected for their ability to devote so much time to jury service. Inevitably they are those who would not otherwise be more gainfully occupied and who have no pressing commitments in the period of the trial. As such they are wholly unrepresentative.

The fact is that, perforce, we have already abandoned the traditional jury trial for long cases, whether or not they involve fraud. The issue is what we put in its place.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN F. DONALDSON
(Master of the Rolls, 1982-92),
House of Lords,
January 22.

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, The hysterical reactions of some of the press to the acquittals in the Maxwell trial are unjustified. They appear to spring from a fundamental misconception of the criminal justice system.

On the one hand, it is claimed that the trial was a "fiasco", bringing the Serious Fraud Office into disrepute, because it resulted in acquittals of the defendants. The SFO was perfectly justified in bringing the proceedings: there was a *prima facie* case against them.

The fact that in due course the jury acquitted, after listening to all the evidence (including Mr Kevin Maxwell's for more than four weeks), submissions by counsel on both sides and a summing up from one of the ablest judges on the Bench, does not mean that the original decision to prosecute was unjustified.

On the other hand, it is suggested that the fact of the acquittals imperils the continuation of the jury system in fraud cases. This suggestion, made by people who are unlikely to have heard all the evidence and submissions in the trial, implies that the jury were perverse in acquitting. That is a grossly patronising and unfair comment on the jurors who conscientiously fulfilled a burdensome public duty.

To suggest that the acquittals in the Maxwell case were unjustified is surely to fall into the trap described by Solzhenitsyn of equating accusation with guilt.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT RHODES,
Littleton Building,
3 King's Bench Walk North,
Temple, EC4,
January 22.

From Mr Graham Pressler

Sir, If the Serious Fraud Office is to survive successfully its methods need seriously to be reviewed. It should at least have the power (such as exists with the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise) to agree compensation and penalties without need for a formal trial. And even where a custodial sentence is thought to be in the public interest, the SFO should have the right to negotiate the level to be recommended to the court (thus falling just short of the often criticised American model).

The Maxwell verdict may, as Lord Denning says (report, January 20), vindicate the jury system — and I have no misgivings about this verdict myself — but at such a cost that public interest would be better served by a form of alternative dispute settlement.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM PRESSLER,
Pressler Parker Skone (solicitors),
47-49 Lanchester Street,
Scunthorpe, South Humberside.

From Mr Gershon Ellenbogen

Sir, Some years ago you published a letter from a qualified accountant, to the effect that he had been a juror in a complicated fraud trial, and had been asked by his colleagues to decide the verdict for them, as they had been unable to comprehend the evidence and arguments: which he accordingly did.

Could there be plainer justification in such cases for the substitution of experienced assessors for jurors?

I am, etc.
G. ELLENBOGEN
(Deputy Circuit Judge, 1977-81),
9 Montagu Square, W1,
January 20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Press reporting of mental distress

From Mr Tim Linehan

Sir, As an organisation which works to promote a wider understanding of mental health issues in the media, we were pleased to see Ruth Runciman challenge some of the myths and misreporting about the special hospitals ("Tell the truth about Broadmoor", January 17).

Ms Runciman's appeal to the Press Complaints Commission to adopt a more proactive role is a timely one.

At the end of last year we took two national daily newspapers (not including *The Times*) to the PCC on the ground that both papers had flouted section 15 of the code of practice which says:

The press should avoid prejudicial or pejorative reference to a person's race, colour, religion, sex or sexual orientation or to any physical or mental illness or handicap.

The stories in question concerned a Mr Fahy who, unstoppered by the police cordon, approached the Princess of Wales while she was visiting Liverpool. After speaking to her, he offered her a cigarette and asked for a kiss, which she duly gave him. The next day the papers discovered that Mr Fahy had a recent history of mental distress, sparked off, it appears, by the death of his father.

The papers described Mr Fahy as a "nutter" (in both headlines, on the front page of both papers) a "weirdo" and a "crank". The PCC's response was that it did not consider the articles to be pejorative or prejudicial and that the descriptions were merely "a matter of taste", which the PCC does not rule on.

In effect, in our view, the PCC has sanctioned newspapers who mock and denigrate people for having experienced the trauma of mental distress. People with mental health problems face enough prejudice and hostility in

the community without the press joining in. They need, and deserve, the support of a more robust Press Complaints Commission to protect themselves from such abuse.

Yours faithfully,
TIM LINEHAN
(Media Relations Officer),
Mental Health Media,
The Resource Centre,
356 Holloway Road, N7,
January 19.

From Professor John Gunn

Sir, I welcome Lady Runciman of Doxford's plea for more balanced reporting about our special (high security) hospitals. As a forensic psychiatrist who works with mentally disordered offenders, some of them former special hospital patients, I know only too well the destructive effect the usual kind of English reporting has on patients and staff alike.

I say English reporting because I have recently been working in Scotland and have had to study newspaper reports concerning suicides by mentally disordered offenders in Scottish prisons. Not all the reports were entirely accurate and some gave a sensationalist slant, but on the whole the reporting was accurate and sensitive with a clear understanding of the social issues involved.

If I am right in my perceptions the question to be answered is why should such cross-border journalistic differences exist? Perhaps a journalist will venture to tell us.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN GUNN,
Institute of Psychiatry,
Department of Forensic Psychiatry,
De Crespigny Park,
Denmark Hill, SE5,
January 18.

Schools' role in moral education

From Mr Don Rowe

Sir, The Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks ("A school is a moral community", January 16), is right to emphasise the importance of education in the transmission of moral values to the next generation (see also leading article, January 16; letters, January 20). Families, of course, are vital in this, although they tend to transmit a narrow range of values. By contrast, schools are vitally important in helping to develop the ideas that in a democratic society we must recognise and respect diversity where this does not impinge on a core of values embodying respect for the dignity and rights of others.

Moral education, in our view, should be about developing the skills of moral thinking, through which this core of values is not obscured but reinforced; and it should begin with primary children. We have initiated a primary-school project, "You, Me Us", which has been shown to have improved the moral awareness of 80 children who have used the programme compared with those who have not.

Teachers are second to none in their concern for the moral health of pupils because every day they live with the consequences of selfish, brutal behaviour; but we trust that the Government will realise that this kind of moral education is the most difficult of all educational tasks, and that teachers need proper training for it and dedicated curriculum time.

Yours sincerely,
DON ROWE,
The Citizenship Foundation,
Weddel House,
13 West Smithfield, EC1.

From Mr Sergei Kadleigh

Sir, Perhaps maxims would be more appropriate than commandments. For example, something like the last

five of the 150 maxims enshrined at the Temple of Apollo at Delphi, defining the virtue of an ideal Greek at the time of the birth of our civilisation: "In childhood learn good manners; in youth learn to control your passions; in middle age learn to be just; in old age learn to be a wise council; die without regret."

Yours faithfully,
SERGEI KADLEIGH,
Flat B,
12 Miles Road, Clifton, Bristol,
January 16.

From Ms Sarah Wehner

Sir, I was both amazed and amused to see punctuality listed as one of the potential modern "Ten Commandments".

I pride myself on being punctual but have never rated it as more than a common courtesy on a par with good personal hygiene or not picking one's nose in public. I would love to hear the philosophical arguments which could raise being on time to the lofty heights of a moral virtue.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH WEHNER,
30 Gordon Road, Canterbury, Kent,
January 17.

From Mr W. Turner

Sir, The Ten Commandments may be regarded as anachronistic, but perhaps the National Curriculum might include Arthur Hugh Clough's *The Loves Decalogue* (published 1862). The Government would surely endorse:

Thou shalt not covet; but tradition Approves all forms of competition.

Yours faithfully,
W. TURNER,
44 Tower Road,
Twickenham, Middlesex,
January 16.

Children in pubs

From the Director of the British Institute of Innkeeping

Sir, The anti-alcohol lobby is completely over-reacting in its objections to children being rewarded by their schools for good behaviour with vouchers to enjoy a meal with their families in the pub (report, January 11).

In many cases going out for a meal is one of very few occasions when the whole family does sit down together to eat. The idea that this "will initiate children into the whole psychology of drinking" is absurd.

Children are not allowed to drink in pubs. Except where a special certificate has been applied for, they are not even allowed in the bar. Most pubs which welcome families create special child-friendly zones with appropriate activities, special menus and soft drinks available.

We could do worse than follow the example of our continental neighbours whose children grow up to accept moderate alcohol consumption as normal behaviour.

Yours faithfully,
MARY CURNOCK COOK,
The British Institute of Innkeeping,
Wessex House,
80 Park Street, Camberley, Surrey,
January 11.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Burns song auld but not so true

From Mr D. J. M. Mitchell

Sir, In the bicentenary year of the death of Robert Burns the new 60p stamp (picture, January 18) does the Post Office no credit.

In addition to writing poetry Burns was a keen collector and brilliant adapter of traditional songs, and contributed to various miscellanies including Thomson's. Many versions, as of "the red, red rose" (25p) are superior to the originals, so he is fairly credited with authorship. Not so of *Auld Lang Syne* (60p).

Provenance is clear from his letter to the song-collector George Thomson in September 1793:

The air is but *mediocre* (his own emphasis: but the following song, the old song of olden times, and which has never been in print, nor even in manuscript, until I took it down from an old man's singing (my emphasis), is enough to recommend any air.

He neither wrote it nor claimed to have. He is a great enough maker in his own right not to need false attributions and the excesses of a (non-literary) cult. They serve only to belittle all that went before and frustrate all that might yet come.

What do the Post Office and Messrs Taylor Mellroy Coates, the design company, offer — designer-history or "poetical correctness"?

Yours aye,
DAVID MITCHELL,
7 Castle Street, Kirkcubright,
January 18.

BT regulation

From Mr I. K. C. Ellison

Sir, I was partly responsible for the fair-trading rules applied to BT under the Telecommunications Act and cannot allow John Butler, BT's Director of Regulatory Affairs, to claim (letter, January 10) that the proposals of the Director General of Telecommunications involve "sweeping and unprecedented new powers", or that they would expose BT to orders which could not be appealed.

The Act and BT's licence already give Mr Don Cruickshank, acting alone, the power to decide any question about whether BT preferences or discrimination are "undue" or whether favours to its own businesses are "unfair". He can also "order" BT to end such preferences or discrimination.

But Mr Cruickshank's orders have no direct effect on BT unless BT does not obey them. Even then nothing can be done until after someone affected by BT's contravention applies for damages in the courts, or until after they or Mr Cruickshank apply for an injunction.

BT can oppose such applications and could ask the courts to quash an order if Mr Cruickshank exceeded his powers. The same procedures would apply if Mr Cruickshank implemented his proposals.

BT is simply wrong to claim that there is no appeal if Don Cruickshank "got the facts wrong or his position was mistaken".

Yours faithfully,
IAN ELLISON,
Assistant Secretary,
Telecommunications Division,
Department of Trade and Industry,
1982-85,
Beedon Hill House,
Beedon, Newbury, Berkshire,
January 10.

Endangered species?

From Mr Peter Wade

Sir, I was hoping that your report about the death of the last native speaker of the Catawba tribe had been mixed with the fact that the Young Conservatives' membership had steeply declined from more than 500,000 twenty years ago (reports, January 16; letters, January 22).

At this rate there will need to be government funding to preserve the last of the species before it becomes extinct. At the very least they should form a support group.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WADE,
70 Heath Road,
Lewden, Colchester, Essex.

From Mr G. M. Wedd

Sir, The Catawba language should have been pronounced dead when the last speaker but one died. Surely it was then that the great silence fell.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WEDD,
The Lodge, Church Hill,
High Littleton, Somerset,
January 16.

Out on a limb?

From Mrs David Brown

Sir, Those who wish Scotland to have an Assembly, or even a Parliament, in Edinburgh should be wary. A recent telephone call to the Scottish Tourist Board office in London produced the startling news that there was no available information on Edinburgh, as they "only covered Scotland".

Fortunately, they gave me an Edinburgh telephone number, where help was immediate and comprehensive — but I hesitated to ask about secession.

Yours faithfully,
PRISCILLA BROWN,
Guston, Chelwood Gate,
Haywards Heath, Sussex,
January 18.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR SIR EDMUND HAPPOLD

Sir Edmund Happold, Professor of Building and Engineering, Bath University, died of a heart attack on January 12 aged 65. He was born on November 8, 1930.

AN adventurously innovative structural engineer, Edmund Happold was one of the 1971 winners of the Centre Pompidou, Plateau Beaubourg competition. It was this which earned him the chance to display the possibilities of engineering most dramatically. The vast skeletal framework of the Pompidou Centre, with its sensationally long-span steel structures and exposed air conditioning stacks all painted in vivid colours, established the unforgettable image of a lightweight, see-through object on a mammoth scale.

"It is technology that frees the scene," Happold declared in *The Great Engineers*, a book in whose writing he collaborated. "Through history there has been a succession of turning points... which express why engineering can be so intensely satisfying — because it is, at its best, an art grounded in social responsibility." Happold believed this profoundly. Picking up the baton of the first great engineers, people like Robert Stephenson, Isambard Kingdom Brunel and Joseph Paxton, he carried their science forward into a modern, and indeed Post-Modern age. He will be remembered alongside people such as Ove Arup, Felix Samuely and Anthony Hunt as a collaborator on some of the 20th century's most celebrated architectural projects.

Edmund Frank Happold was born in Leeds, the son of Frank Happold,



Professor of Biochemistry at Leeds University, and Margaret Happold, a socialist, influential in the area of public housing. He was educated at Leeds Grammar School and at Bootham School, York, afterwards studying geology at Leeds University. As a Quaker, Happold was a conscientious objector and during the Korean War he found himself working on the construction of a large moveable greenhouse for the Ministry of Agriculture. It was this which sparked off his interest in structures. He joined a firm of building contractors, Robert

McAlpine & Son, before returning to Leeds University to take a course in civil engineering.

Happold's scientific, religious and constructive leanings all combined to attract him to building for reasons of its social function. Design, as he saw it, was indivisible from imagination and people; failure to recognise this, he thought, was the cause of much that was depressing and mediocre in contemporary surroundings. It was no surprise, therefore, that the first architect's office which Happold worked in belonged to one of the greatest form makers of modern architecture, the Finn Alvar Aalto.

In 1957 Happold joined the experimental practice of Ove Arup to work on one of the most magnificent architectural structures of this century, the Sydney Opera House, which was designed by the Dane, Jørn Utzon. He was also involved with Basil Spence's Coventry Cathedral.

After a brief period working for a New York firm, during which time he familiarised himself with tensile structures, Happold returned to England in 1967 to take up a partnership in Ove Arup's firm. He undertook an enormous amount of work with Arup, including (for Basil Spence) the design of the controversial Knightsbridge Barracks and of the British Embassy in Rome. In 1966 his was the winning competition design for a conference centre and hotel in Riyadh and it was this project which led to his collaboration with the innovative German architects, Rolf Gutroff and Frei Otto, on a conference centre for Mecca, a building which was

to receive the Aga Khan award for the most technically ingenious design in the Islamic world of the Sixties.

In 1971 Happold, working with the firm Paris Rogers, was one of four joint winners of the Centre Pompidou, Plateau Beaubourg competition and for two years he was to work in Paris, where he was responsible for Arup's office.

Then in 1973 he returned to Britain to work on other projects, among which were the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, the Arts Centre, Warwick (for Renon Howard Wood), and, most notably, an astonishing timber grid shell designed with Frei Otto for the 1975 Mannheim Garden Show. He was appointed to the chair of building and engineering at Bath University in 1976 and that same year formed his own practice which he called Buro Happold (buro being German for office) because of the numerous commissions he had undertaken in Germany.

The eventual expansion of this practice to a staff of 200 was a confirmation of Happold's ability to inspire those with whom, and for whom, he worked. During his lifetime he received many awards, including the Guthrie Brown medal, 1970, the Henry Adams award, 1976, the Ecole Centrale de Paris, 1988, and the Institute of Structural Engineers' gold medal, 1992. He was also a member of the Design Council, 1988, Master of the Royal Society of Arts, 1991, and vice-president of the Royal Society of Arts, 1991-95. In 1994 he was knighted.

Edmund Happold is survived by his wife and two sons.

PETER STADLEN

Peter Stadlen, pianist and music critic, died in Hampstead on January 20 aged 85. He was born in Vienna on July 14, 1910.

PETER STADLEN had a distinguished career as a concert pianist, specialising in the works of his elder contemporaries of the Second Viennese School. The son of a well-known Jewish family — his uncle had been economic adviser to the Seitel Government — he studied in Vienna with Paul Weingarten for piano and Joseph Marx for composition. He also read philosophy at Vienna University.

In 1929 he went to Berlin for further musical study. After four years there and a year back in Vienna, he launched his career as a concert pianist in 1934. In 1937 he gave the premiere of Webern's Variations Opus 27 and at the Venice Biennale of the same year he directed from the keyboard a performance of Schoenberg's Suite Opus 29. He avoided the Anschluss — though he was planning to go home to vote in the referendum that preceded it — by fleeing to the Netherlands on his way back to Vienna. He did not then return to his native land until well after the war.

Once established in London — he became a valued wartime recitalist at the National Gallery — he began to introduce the work of Schoenberg and Webern to a wider public: he was a particularly fine interpreter of Schoenberg's Concerto.

After the war he took part in premieres of works by Hindemith, and supervised a master class in modern music at the Darmstadt Summer School from 1947 to 1951. At the same time he began to write and broadcast about music. One loss was that he never wrote his memoirs, since his spoken thoughts on his early days in Vienna — particularly fascinating to his colleagues at All Souls, Oxford, where he spent a year as a visiting fellow in 1967-68 — were of clear historical interest.

In 1959 he was appointed assistant to Martin Cooper, then chief music critic of *The Daily Telegraph*. From that day his hands never touched the keyboard in public, except when to illustrate a broadcast about Webern's piano music. He never discussed the reason — it was the product of a neurological problem with two of his fingers — for his



precipitate and premature retirement from the keyboard. To those who did not know his secret, it was as startling a volte-face as his disillusion with serialism, which he expounded in lectures at the British Institute of Recorded Sound in 1960.

He also worked and spoke extensively on the significance of the metronome in Beethoven's music, producing much original research in that fraught field. When he broadcast on the old Third Programme, he would arrive, much to his producer's consternation, with a massive collection of documents and an equally daunting array of illustrations.

In 1977, on Cooper's retirement, he became the chief *Daily Telegraph* music critic, holding the post until 1986. He decided to retire when the old Hartwell ownership gave way to that of Conrad Black, perhaps foreseeing the sharp reduction in music coverage that was to follow.

As a critic, Stadlen had a style all his own. His allusive manner on the page was also reflected in his conversation. That, allied to his thick Viennese accent which he never lost, occasionally obscured his

meaning; but what he had to say was almost always original and thought-provoking. He was meticulous to the point of pedantry on any matter of detail.

He would, for example, think nothing of cornering an artist at a concert in order to discover why he or she had thought it right to adopt a particular minor point of interpretation.

He was not entirely an easy colleague. He always believed in what he called "ruling the civil service", which in practice meant driving a succession of secretaries to distraction because of the demands he made on them — mostly seeking obscure scores out of music libraries. He was a regular visitor to all the major festivals, where the need for his presence was not perhaps always as obvious to his editors as it was to himself. In retirement he continued, more modestly, to attend every important concert in London, looking as quizzical and inquisitive as ever.

He and his wife Heidi, a distant relative of Johann Strauss, were constant companions at all events. She survives him, together with their two sons.

DENISE GREY

Denise Grey, French stage and screen actress, died in Paris on January 13 aged 99. She was born in Turin on September 17, 1896.

DURING a remarkable career which spanned more than seventy years, Denise Grey went from the chorus of the pre-First World War *Folies Bergère* music hall to the Comédie Française; and from bit parts in films to national stardom playing outspoken, slightly eccentric grandmothers. She became France's favourite *Mamie* (grandmother) both on and off the screen. Television increased her fame.

She built a relatively late,

second film career around the line from one of her scripts: "No one can tick me off. I'm too old." Whereas in real life, contemporary French grandmothers may have a hard time, the actress's screen version always obtained what she wanted and endeared herself to everyone while doing so. Audiences loved it when she gave pertinent advice about life's pitfalls to teenagers, particularly girls who eventually came to realise, at least on the screen, that *Mamie* had been right after all. In this way, Denise Grey served as a kind of cinematic and televised bridge between the generations.

Her second taste of stardom in France dated from 1980

when, already in her eighties, she played the grandmother Poupette in a new actress, Sophie Marceau, in the film *La Boum* (slang for The Party). It was an enormous success and Madame Marceau and Madame Grey repeated the success with *La Boum 2* (1982), one of the rare occasions when Paris followed Hollywood's example in producing a repeat.

The films have been constantly reshown on television, where she also played grandmother roles in a number of popular series. Sophie Marceau, who went on to become a popular film actress, rarely missed an opportunity to pay her "grand-daughterly respects" in public to her

elderly fellow actress.

Denise Grey was the stage name of Edouardine Verthier, whose parents had emigrated from Italy to France when she was two and became comedians in a building near the Paris Opera. She liked to mention the job in her biographies and to make a pun on the fact that she went from a concierge's "loge" (courtyard room) to a theatrical "loge" (dressing room).

She worked in dress shops and as a model before securing a small part at the *Folies Bergère* in 1913. She always wore a bathing costume, albeit a brief one, at the *Folies* and this modesty followed her into the film world where she was reluctant to give her partners



more than a sisterly peck on the cheek.

The actress Yvonne Printemps spotted her and directed her towards the world of operettas, where she starred in *La Belle Helène*. The 1930s saw her as the lead in many plays along the boulevards. In 1942 she appeared in Molière's *Tartuffe* at the Comédie Française, and she returned to the national theatre years later as a permanent member of the cast.

During the interim she had fallen in love with a dashing Hispano-Suiza car salesman, Henri Bara, and had a daughter, Suzanne, by him. He was killed in a motorboat accident while attempting to break a record. She waited 25 years before marrying again, this time a businessman named Charles-Henri Dunkel.

All she played in some 80 films from the time of her first role in 1913 to her last part five years ago. She retired from the stage at the age of 95 because she said that her memory was fading slightly. To keep herself busy she made a couple of records and wrote her memoirs.

Among the qualities that endeared her to theatrical colleagues, particularly those who played with her in the French version of the play *Harold and Maude* and the record-breaking *Le Toub* (1974) by Françoise Dorin, was her calm nature. She knitted quietly before the curtain on opening nights, and lived modestly in a small Parisian studio. But she was often asked out by younger actors, who liked to hear her reminiscences, as when she had danced with Mistinguett, the music hall star, or played alongside the comic actor Raimu.

She is survived by her daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS WARD-ANDREWS - Lewis, 19th Earl of Warwick, died in Paris on January 13 aged 99. She was born in Turin on September 17, 1896.	DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS SEEKING CARE GIVER 57 year old male, widower, good health, a care giver in private home with pension and live in private quarters. Should be successful, patient, non smoker, able to cook, clean, iron, and do laundry. Knowledgeable of Spanish and Italian. Salary and pension. Call 0171 223 2231.	FLIGHTS DIRECTORY COST CUTTERS on flights & hotels to Europe, USA & most destinations. Discount Travel Services. Tel: 0171 720 2201. Airtel 0171 720 2201.	FLIGHTS DIRECTORY VACATION TRAVEL SPECIALIST IN: MALAYSIA, INDIA, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, HONG KONG, TAIWAN, JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, SOUTH AFRICA, CANADA, USA. Tel: 0171 223 4480.	TICKETS FOR SALE ALL AVAILABLE. Phantom, all the stars. Tel: 0171 223 4480.
WARWICK - David, The 19th Earl of Warwick, died in Paris on January 13 aged 99. She was born in Turin on September 17, 1896.	FLATSHARE BAYVIEW, 2 bed, 1 bath, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 study, 1 garage. Tel: 0171 223 2231.	CAPITAL FLIGHTS Special low fares to Europe, USA & most destinations. Tel: 0171 223 4480.	OVERSEAS TRAVEL SPECIALIST IN: MALAYSIA, INDIA, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, HONG KONG, TAIWAN, JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, SOUTH AFRICA, CANADA, USA. Tel: 0171 223 4480.	TICKETS (Bought & Sold) Rugby 5 Nations, Football, etc. Tel: 0171 223 4480.
WHITE - On 21st January, peacefully at home, Dr. John Henry White, 85, died.	FOR SALE MORNING SUITS, DINNER SUITS, EVENING TAIL. Tel: 0171 223 2231.	UP TO 60% DISCOUNT ON SCHEDULED FLIGHTS WORLDWIDE Agents for ATOL. Tel: 0171 538 8273.	RENTALS CHELSEA, 1 bed, 1 bath, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 study, 1 garage. Tel: 0171 223 2231.	WANTED ALL CROCODILES, alligators, etc. Tel: 0171 223 2231.
ZOGRAPHOS - On January 19th peacefully, Yanni Zographos, 85, died.	FLIGHTS '96 Special low fares to Europe, USA & most destinations. Tel: 0171 223 4480.	FLYDRIVES ORLANDO SUMMER 1996. Tel: 0171 223 4480.	TICKETS FOR SALE 5 Nations Rugby 96. Tel: 0171 223 4480.	YOUR WILL If you are making a will, please call 0171 223 2231.
CARRIVATH - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of St. Andrew Carrivath will be held at 12 noon on Thursday 25th January at St. Michael's Church, 100 High Street, London EC1A.	TRADITIONAL - 1791-1990 other titles available. Tel: 0171 223 2231.	LIBERTY WORLD TRAVEL Tel: 0171 223 4480.	ACCESS TICKETS Specialists in SOLD OUT EVENTS. Tel: 0171 223 4480.	MARKET OF GARDEN HAPPY Tel: 0171 223 2231.
KIMBER - A Thanksgiving Service for the life of St. Andrew Kimber will be held at 12 noon on Thursday 25th January at St. Michael's Church, 100 High Street, London EC1A.	TRADITIONAL - 1791-1990 other titles available. Tel: 0171 223 2231.	LIBERTY WORLD TRAVEL Tel: 0171 223 4480.	ACCESS TICKETS Specialists in SOLD OUT EVENTS. Tel: 0171 223 4480.	MARKET OF GARDEN HAPPY Tel: 0171 223 2231.
SCHLITZ - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of St. Andrew Schlitz will be held at 12 noon on Thursday 25th January at St. Michael's Church, 100 High Street, London EC1A.	TRADITIONAL - 1791-1990 other titles available. Tel: 0171 223 2231.	LIBERTY WORLD TRAVEL Tel: 0171 223 4480.	ACCESS TICKETS Specialists in SOLD OUT EVENTS. Tel: 0171 223 4480.	MARKET OF GARDEN HAPPY Tel: 0171 223 2231.
SCOTT LOWE - A Memorial Service for St. Scott Lowe will be held at 12 noon on Wednesday 24th January at St. Michael's Church, 100 High Street, London EC1A.	TRADITIONAL - 1791-1990 other titles available. Tel: 0171 223 2231.	LIBERTY WORLD TRAVEL Tel: 0171 223 4480.	ACCESS TICKETS Specialists in SOLD OUT EVENTS. Tel: 0171 223 4480.	MARKET OF GARDEN HAPPY Tel: 0171 223 2231.
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All-round contribution sees Teddy Five move into contention as £50,000 race heats up

Transfer moves essential to Bare's success

The battle for the Interactive Team Football (ITF) title is beginning to take shape. Kevin Kickers are still snarling after being bumped down into second place by Gohls Gods 65 for the third consecutive week while Teddy Five have just about claimed third place.

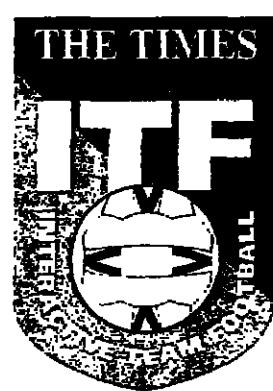
Gohls Gods have extended their lead to 18 points while Teddy Five lie 22 points behind the Kickers and are being pushed hard by Jones Boys 6, a mere two points behind. Teddy Five, managed by Bruce Bare—obviously a man with a sense of humour as well as a keen eye for football form—is very much a team effort.

There are few superstars, no big-money buys, just 11 players who consistently turn up the points.

The most expensive player is Gary McAllister, of Leeds United, at £4 million. The Scotland international mid-fielder has racked up 40 points for the side, the highest individual score, but has had a mixed season with Bare. McAllister was brought in a couple of weeks after the season started, dropped three weeks later and recalled to the fray only in December for the Christmas fixtures. However, after the thrashing of Leeds United by Liverpool on Saturday, it could be that McAllister's days are numbered.

Bare has been ruthless in the transfer market. Martin Keown, of Arsenal, was in and out in the early stages of the season before fading from view in October, while only Lee Dixon, of Arsenal, and Warren Barton, of Newcastle United, have been regulars.

Teddy Five comprises: Southall (Everton), Barton (Newcastle United), Dixon (Arsenal), Cooper (Nottingham Forest), Peacock (Liverpool), Filcroft (Manchester City), McAllister (Leeds United), Ebbrell (Everton), McGinlay (Bolton Wanderers), Shipperley (Southampton) and Clark (Nottingham Forest). Manchester United's match



against West Ham United last night brought a flurry of activity. With no points to come from Old Trafford on Saturday, out went Alex Ferguson and Nicky Butt to be replaced by Frank Clark and Gary Filcroft. Between them on Saturday they scored just one point, but anything is better than nothing when there is £50,000 at stake.

If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload and who you replace him with is

up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie. a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF and would have to be replaced. Any overseas or Endsleigh Insurance League players who move into the Premiership during the season will become available for transfer.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged at 58 pence per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and David Buss, of Coventry City, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £7 million on Andy Cole—but will he do better than cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose your points. With Gohls Gods 65 setting the pace, it is time for you to delve into the transfer market?

□ All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.



Barnes, of Liverpool, has contributed 30 points to Teddy Five's total. Can he maintain his strike-rate now that the gloves are off in ITF?

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF			
All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts.			
POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Scores goal	1pt
Saves goal	3pts	All players	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Appearance†	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	3pts
Saves goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player	1pt	Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Saves goal	2pts		
POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misuses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players	3pts	Manager	1pt
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

* Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 50p

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be typed in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 6am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category—for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player out

Club

Player in

Club

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF			
Code	Player	IN	Value
40909	N Quashie	OPR	£0.75m
41108	M Waters	OPR	£1.5m
Code	Player	OUT	Value
21103	G Hall	Club	£0.50m
40406	M Waters	Club	£1.5m

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Gohls Gods 65	(Mr B Gohls)	446
2	Kevin Kickers	(K James)	426
3	Teddy Five	(Mr B Bare)	406
4	Jones Boys 65	(M L Jones)	402
5	Stevens Lions 2	(S Brewer)	398
6	Smart And Stubbs	(K Booth)	392
7	Aberpura	(G Shand)	389
8	Phyco And Smith	(K Booth)	383
9	Shrew Voles	(H Brasher)	382
10	Stevens Lions 7	(S Brewer)	380
11	Sharon's Buds	(Mr D Conroy)	379
12	Fergus Fury	(J Nichol)	377
13	Stevens Lions 6	(P Simpson)	377
14	Kisapara Five	(S Brewer)	375
15	Fair Fair Flapjacks	(E Kibby)	374
16	The Good Bad & Ugly	(C Woodward)	373
17	Rescue Supers	(K Booth)	372
18	Strangers	(P Sutton)	372
19	Jessicas Darlings 4	(Mr G Banks)	372
20	Apollon 2	(Mr A Nadsen)	372
21	My Cat Bailey	(S Lazaridis)	372
22	Percy Progress	(Mr P Johnson)	371
23	Stevens Lions 9	(M Persch)	370
24	Stevens Lions 1	(S Brewer)	370
25	Rescue City	(J Sanderson)	369
26	Who Needs Mark	(N Persch)	369
27	Waynes Dribblers	(A J Pritchard)	369
28	A's Alpacas	(A Hancock)	368
29	Jones Boys Four	(L M Jones)	368
30	Razor's Raiders	(R A Knowles)	368
31	Saltburg United	(Mr P J Davies)	368
32	Laytons Lions	(Mr R Layton)	368
33	Jacobsville FC	(Mr A P Jacobsville)	368
34	Parish Thistle	(C Nicol)	368
35	Burnwell United	(R Benham)	368
36	Nirvana FC	(Mr J Donovan)	368
37	Stevens Lions 5	(S Brewer)	364
38	The Young Guns	(B Shepherd)	364
39	Cameron Athan	(Mr J R Reader)	364
40	Tommy Goodies XI	(Mr P Johnson)	364
41	Nights Right Foot	(Mr D Patel)	364
42	Razall 3	(D Shuter)	363
43	KP Fantasy Team 4	(K R Patel)	361
44	Good Times United	(Mr T Stabelford)	360
45	No Fear Utd	(G Saunders)	359
46	Warren Wizards	(J Buckle)	359
47	Gulford Marching	(A Brown)	358
48	Nobby One	(B Scolluck)	358
49	Scot Utd	(C Stacey)	358
50	Goal Diggers	(Mr D Lovell)	358
51	Harrington Inter	(G Pedder)	358
52	The Lively Lads	(P Parke)	358
53	Carling XI	(S Evans)	357
54	Conquering Eleven	(Mrs E L Arrowsmith)	357
55	Chip N Dale XI	(M Webb)	357
56	Monster Monkeys	(P Turner)	356
57	No Sam Today	(M Priestley)	356
58	Turners Earners	(P Hanna)	355
59	Map 9	(T Sigsworth)	354
60	Mortan	(G Aldous)	354
61	Le Socks	(G Sander)	354
62	Kings Kickers	(J Lees)	354
63	Fusion Rangers	(K Booth)	354
64	Woburn Wanderers	(A Nelson)	354
65	The Wye One Too	(J Hunt)	353
66	County Pine A	(S Murray)	353
67	Jeetand 1890		353

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING

Call the ITF hotline on 0891 774 796

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon today.

108	Brillo Boys	(C Tinson)	347	162	Vesuvio	(G Batschelor)	341
109	Bohnen Forest	(S Burn)	347	163	Albemarle	(A R Jackson)	341
110	Ramsden Raiders 2	(Mr A Shah)	347	164	Francis Caldwell FC	(F Caldwell)	341
111	Manford Utd	(J Munford)	347	165	Peterson's Dreamers	(M Peterson)	340
112	Fraser Dribblers	(G Glenaham)	347	166	Jap 11	(J Parkin)	340
113	Twilight United	(P G Dainton)	347	167	All Stars	(C Jones)	340
114	Wayne's Wags	(K Hughes)	346	168	Chumblers	(T Hobbs)	340
115	Albany Villa	(J S Dimes)	346	169	Always Hope	(Mr R Foster)	340
116	Noddies Bears	(S Cozens)	346	170	Orbital Smashers	(Mr S Broome)	340
117	Gatto Nero FC	(E Scallott)	346	171	Nightmares	(G J Strickland)	340
118	The Magicians	(A Creighton)	346	172	Bad Losers FC	(P Bayley)	340
119	Sky Blue Royals	(R G Foster)	346	173	No Hoppers	(S Harris)	340
120	Very Forward	(A Foster)	346	174	Donkey's Dream	(H Maitland)	340
121	The Cake Eaters	(Mr S Hughes)	346	175	Spit Utd	(M Radcliffe)	339
122	Bayley Reserves	(Mr M Wask)	345	176	Avenue Dandelion Utd	(K D Balfour)	339
123	Robbo's Army	(P Callaghan)	345	177	Jamie's Giants	(J Stewart)	339
124	Boogie Masters	(S Robinson)	345	178	Huss Hotspurs	(H Khan)	339
125	The Mighty Dandies	(Dr Hall)	345	179	The Phantoms	(Z Mohammed)	339
126	They're Here	(Mr P Johnson)	345	180	Spit Utd	(P Mason)	340
127	Premier Supers	(P Green)	345	181	The Solbos	(D Hoekstra)	339
128	Mega Eleven	(T Becker)	345	182	Chesham Jaspers	(J Hoekstra)	339
129	Oceaniahusmooon	(Mr D Clarke)	345	183	The Locksters	(D Lock)	339
130	Nats Lions	(N Brower)	344	184	Seacalce FC 4	(S Adams)	339
131	Premier Allstars	(D Middleton)	344	185	FA Allstars United	(S Dossan)	339
132	Keegans Crusaders	(G Armistage)	344	186	Map 5	(M Priestley)	339
133	Pete's Star Team	(Mr P J Mason)	344	187	Arrabigo Sharks FC	(C Walker)	339
134	It's A Mugs Game	(K Booth)	344	188	Kisapara Four	(E J Kibby)	339
135	Albemarle Town	(J Hedges)	344	189	110 Percent	(M C Doherty)	339
136	Santa All Stars	(J Allen)	344	190	Kirby's Girls	(K Magee)	339
137	Razz Rovers	(Mr Fogelin)	343	191	The UK Sevens	(J Ekens)	339
138	Wyle Green Town	(M Higgins)	343	192	Essex Park	(P Bradshaw)	339
139	Street FC	(S Backlot)	343	193	Mewon The Parson	(S Blane)	339
140	JK's Dolphins	(J F Kitchen)	343	194	Lickey Winner	(L A Vaughan)	338
141	Forbury Flyers	(A Norton)	343	195	Long Drive	(I Parker)	338
142	S Express FC	(S O'Toole)	343	196	Check Your Head Unit	(Mark Adamson)	338
143	Espe Nham	(Mr D Warner)	343	197	Quinton Forest	(J Bailey)	338
144	Pitby Phantasies	(R H Pittington)	343	198	New Bales Eleven	(Mr I Godwin)	338
145	Don Shuter C	(D Shuter)	343	199	Bonky Boys	(R P Crook)	338
146	Reel Madras FC 2nd	(P Bradley)	343	200	Phoenix 3rd XI	(S Haller)	338
147	The Minds Filled	(R J Damsell)	343	201	Atlantis FC	(E Hallford)	338
148	Gully OJ	(J Aldous)	342	202	Death Or Glory	(A T Davies)	338
149	Anti-Saints	(J Lowson)	342	203	No Way Thru's	(Mr AL Sydenham)	338
150	The Confusers	(Mr D J Farmer)	342	204	Saltburg United	(Mr T Armistage)	338
151	Yess Blue Hooves	(Mr S Tye)	342	205	Joyful Utd	(Mr M Hurs)	338
152	Thelwell Tornadoes	(C Chumbrlain)	342	206	Real Athletic	(Mrs G Keynes)	338
153	London's Longshots	(C Lottin)	342	207	Escalleroo	(A Richardson)	338
154	PKF Pundit	(P Francis)	342	208	The Lodge	(S Pang)	338
155	Gohls Gods 73	(Mr B Gohls)	342	209	FC FC	(Mr C Head)	338
156	Parish Thistle	(C Nicol)	342	210	The Dream Team	(C Farrell)	338
157	Ruffell Rabbits	(J Whalley)	341	211	Archives 73s	(T Gregory)	338
158	Tony's All Stars	(A Boyland)	341	212	DM 001	(M McGregor)	338
159	Mean Machine	(Ramesh Patel)	341	213	Jungle Nation	(R Matthews)	337
160	Sunderland Stars	(K Brown)	341	214	OHME	(Mr M Raja)	337
161	Borusnia Donsdale	(M Fris)	341	215	Accrington Ollie	(Mr K Kisholm)	337
162	Gay Rovers	(Kevin Smith)	341	216	Kaisers Champions	(M Priestley)	337
163	Duke's City	(S G Ankom)	341	217	Sulley Golden Playe	(G Sullivan)	337
164	Elles	(D Ellis)	341	218	Fitts Utd	(P Dawson)	337
165	Winters Wanderers	(Mr A F Winter)	341	219	Freedom XI	(P Mannie)	337
166	Dream Team	(J Veltman)	341	220	Map 6	(M Dale)	337
167	Raggle's Reds	(Mr J Bridge)	341	221	The Glory Boys	(M Priestley)	337
168	The Others	(O Miler)	341	222	Journeysman	(A Jordan)	337
169	Woodstock XI	(K Grogan)	341	223	Badman F	(D Mulholland)	337
170	Minnows United	(M Ammstead)	341	224	Alla Tartan Army	(A A Gordon)	337
171	Glasgow's Goats	(J I Glasbrook)	341	225	Moneybags United	(P Etridge)	337
172	Adams Men Or God 4	(D Dunn)	341	226	The Rainbow Connect	(G Weiss)	337
173	Allstars XI	(C Cole)	341	227	The Rampant Ram	(L Jarvis)	337
174	Cole Knights	(P Hutchinson)	341	228	Racing Club Hamel	(M R Alca)	337

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	2m	Pts	Wk	OV
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	+4	+3	
10102	B Mims	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1	
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-1	+2	
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+4	-13	
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0	
10303	A Fattis	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0	
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	+5	+21	
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0	
10501	J Lukic	Leeds United	3.00	0	-11	
10502	M Beesley	Leeds United	0.75	-8	-1	
10601	P Smicic	Newcastle United	3.00	-4	+5	
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0	
10603	S Hlop	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+4	
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-4	+1	
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0	
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7	
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0	
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-4	-25	
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-7	
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	+4	+2	
10903	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38	
11001	S Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0	
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	-1	-10	
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+8	
11102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	+2	+1	
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-4	+14	
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0	
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-32	
11302	C Woodie	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-5	-6	
11401	L Mioduski	West Ham United	2.50	0	-13	
11402	L Sealley	West Ham United	0.50	0	0	
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-4	+2	
11502	J Keaton	Everton	0.75	0	0	
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-1	-21	
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0	
11603	J Fflan	Coventry City	1.50	0	-35	
11701	A Coton	Manchester City	2.50	0	0	
11702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0	
11703	E Immel	Manchester City	2.00	+4	-9	
11801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	-28	
11802	N Spink	Aston Villa	1.00	0	-1	
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3	
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	-3	-5	
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-3	-57	
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0	

Code	Name	Team	2m	Pts	Wk	OV
20101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	+4	+22	
20102	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+3	
20103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	+4	+32	
20201	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.50	0	+13	
20202	P Parker	Manchester United	2.50	-1	-1	
20203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	0	0	
20204	F Neville	Manchester United	0.75	-1	+8	
20301	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.50	+7	+26	
20302	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+4	+16	
20303	N Haslam	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-12	
20401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	+4	+27	
20402	S Bjornby	Liverpool	3.00	0	+4	
20403	S Horne	Liverpool	0.75	0	+26	
20501	T Dorog	Leeds United	3.50	0	+11	
20502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+4	+11	
20503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	-4	-2	
20601	J Beresford	Newcastle United	3.00	-3	+13	
20602	M Holtger	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0	
20603	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	+24	
20701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+9	
20702	J Edinburg	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+3	+3	
20703	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	-1	+25	
20704	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0	
20705	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+6	
20801	D Bardsley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	-2	-7	
20802	R Brevett	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-3	
20803	N Zelic	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	-3	
20901	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.50	+4	-1	
20902	G Elkins	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-8	
20903	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	+3	-11	
20904	R Joseph	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
21001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	0	+15	
21002	F Benall	Southampton	1.00	0	+4	
21003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	0	+10	
21101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	+4	+8	
21102	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	0	+3	
21103	G Hall	Chelsea	0.50	0	+9	
21104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	-1	+15	
21105	T Phelan	Chelsea	1.50	+3	+3	
21106	D Petrescu	Chelsea	2.50	+3	+17	
21201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	+30	
21202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	-1	+27	
21203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.50	0	0	
21302	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	-4	
21303	P Alford	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	-1	
21304	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1	-1	
21401	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.50	0	+2	
21402	T Breacker	West Ham United	3.00	0	-12	
21403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	0	0	
21404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	0	+8	
21501	G Ablett	Everton	2.50	-1	+10	
21502	E Barrett	Everton	2.50	0	+4	
21503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	0	+10	
21504	P Holmes	Everton	0.50	0	-2	
21601	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	
21602	A Pickering	Coventry City	1.00	0	-3	
21603	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0	0	
21604	M Hall	Coventry City	0.75	0	-19	
21702	R Edgill	Manchester City	1.50	0	-1	
21704	J Foster	Manchester City	0.75	0	-1	
21801	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+34	
21802	S Staunton	Aston Villa	4.50	0	+3	
21803	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+36	
21804	P King	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0	
21805	B Small	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0	
21901	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	-3	
21902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	1.00	-1	+21	
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	+23	
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	-6	
22001	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	+2	-10	
22002	S Green	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-2	-9	
22003	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-1	-14	
22004	A Calderwood	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	-8	
22005	S McAneple	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	+1	

Code	Name	Team	2m	Pts	Wk	OV
30101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	+4	+27	
30102	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+3	
30103	N Markar	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+3	
30104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0	
30105	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+4	+19	
30201	S Bruce	Manchester United	4.50	0	+13	
30202	G Pallister	Manchester United	4.50	0	+16	
30203	D May	Manchester United	1.50	0	-1	
30301	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.50	+4	+24	
30302	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+3	+10	
30401	P Babb	Liverpool	3.00	+4	+20	
30402	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.50	+9	+29	
30403	J Seales	Liverpool	3.50	+4	+19	
30404	M Wright	Liverpool	1.00	0	+21	
30405	D Matteo	Liverpool	0.75	0	+4	
30501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	3.50	-4	+11	
30502	C Palmer	Leeds United	3.00	-4	+9	
30503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	1.50	0	-1	
30504	P Beesley	Leeds United	1.00	0	+1	
30505	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.50	0	+4	
30601	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.00	+2	+14	
30602	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+24	
30603	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	-3	+23	
30701	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+20	
30702	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+12	
30703	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	-1	-1	
30704	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0	



Busst, the Coventry City defender, made a wise investment in securing McManaman, of Liverpool, for his ITF team

Little spark from Cole

I STARTED out with the idea of an all-out attacking side. I wanted Alan Shearer and Les Ferdinand and then I discovered that they would cost me £18 million. Once I had spent that much, I could not get a team together — I could not afford one.

The next option was to go for a strong midfield and a cheap back four. Dave Watson and David Unsworth were cheap at £5 million each, and Everton do not concede many goals. They are a good partnership, so that was the central defence sorted out.

I have always admired Steve Clarke. There are a few unsung heroes in the Premiership and he is one of them. I picked him because he is consistent. Having said that, I picked him on his record last season: this season, he has not played as much because of injury.

Sol Campbell is a bit of a bonus. I had forgotten that I had him in the side. I have selected him as a full back but he has been anchoring the midfield for a lot of this season, which gives him more chances to score points. I like Sol. He is a good all-rounder, he is a good manager and you can put him anywhere.

My front two are not doing too well although they have picked up a bit recently. Andy Cole has not done as well as I thought he would, and I think I have been duped by Brian Little over Milosevic. It has taken a long time for

David Busst, of Coventry City, is finding his ITF hopes hindered by a lack of goals

Milosevic to settle to the pace of English football. I think he has scored only about nine goals and five of them were against us. If I am going to win the league, I think that Milosevic will have to play us every week.

Steve McManaman has been my best buy. He was a bit cheaper than Cole and has scored more points. Maybe I should ask Cole for a refund — or let him score when we play United. I have always admired McManaman, he has such good balance.

BUSST'S SELECTION

Goalkeeper: M Crossley (Nottingham Forest) £2.5m
Full backs: S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur) £1.5m, S Clarke (Chelsea) £1.5m
Centre backs: D Unsworth (Everton) £2.5m, D Watson (QPR) £1.5m
Midfielders: A Impey (Blackburn) £1.5m, S McManaman (Liverpool) £3.5m, R Keane (Man Utd) £2.5m, A Cole (Aston Villa) £1.5m
Strikers: S Milosevic (Coventry) £1.5m
Manager: R Atkinson

Code	Name	Team	2m	Pts	Wk	OV
30705	J Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
30801	D Maddox	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-1	-6	
30802	S Yates	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-1	-6	
30902	A McDonald	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	-2	+4	
30903	K Reed	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	-6	
30904	A Reeves	Wimbledon	2.50	+4	0	
30905	A Thorn	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-4	
30906	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-8	
30907	C Perry	Wimbledon	1.50	+4	-14	
30908	A Pearce	Wimbledon	2.00	-1	-2	
31001	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	+8	
31002	A Neilson	Southampton	1.50	0	+10	
31003	R Hall	Southampton	1.50	+3	+7	
31101	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0	+14	
31102	J Kjeldberg	Chelsea	1.50	0	0	
31103	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3	
31104	D Lee	Chelsea	0.75	0	+16	
31105	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	+1	+1	
31201	T Adams	Arsenal	4.50	0	+27	
31202	S Bouid	Arsenal	3.00	0	+23	
31203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.50	0	+17	
31204	A Linighan	Arsenal	1.50	-2	-6	
31301	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	0	
31401	S Potts	West Ham United	1.50	+3	+7	
31402	M Ripper	West Ham United	2.50	0	+5	
31403	A Martin	West Ham United	1.00	0	+21	
31501	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.50	0	0	
31502	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	0	+24	
31503	D Watson	Everton	2.50	-1	+11	
31504	C Short	Everton	2.50	-1	-7	
31602	D Rennie	Coventry City	0.75	0	-7	
31603	D Burrows	Coventry City	0.75	0	0	
31604	B Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-9	
31605	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	-15	
31701	K Curle	Manchester City	1.50	+4	-9	
31702	A Kernaghan	Manchester City	1.00	0	-1	
31703	K Symons	Manchester City	1.50	+3	+11	
31801	U Ehigbo	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+32	
31802	P McGrath	Aston Villa	1.50	+3	+16	
31803	C Tiller	Aston Villa	0.75	0	+1	
31901	A Pearson	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	+12	
31902	S Wickers	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	+23	
31903	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	-3	-8	
31904	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+14	
32001	A Stubbs	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-1	-3	
32002	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-16	
32003	S Coleman	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	0	
32004	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-9	
32005	G Strong	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0	

Code	Name	Team	2m	Pts	Wk	OV
40102	D Betty	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	+2	+29	
40103	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	0	0	
40104	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+2	+32	
40105	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+3	+31	
40107	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+1	
40109	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+7	
40110	L Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	+5	+37	
40111	W McKenley	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+6	
40112	G Fenton	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	+1	
40201	R Giggie	Manchester United	5.50	+1	+36	
40202	R Keane	Manchester United	2.50	+1	+19	
40203	L Sharpe	Manchester United	3.00	+1	+18	
40205	N Butt	Manchester United	2.00	+1	+26	
40206	D Beckham	Manchester United	0.75	0	+28	
40207	S Davies	Manchester United	0.75	0	+1	
40302	C Bert Williams	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+3	+24	
40303	I Woon	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+3	+34	
40304	S Stone	Nottingham Forest	4.00	+2	+38	
40305	D Phillips	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+9	
40306	S Gennoll	Nottingham Forest	2.00	+2	+21	
40307	K Black	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0	

NEWS

Harman says she will not quit

■ Harriet Harman fought back against an avalanche of hypocrisy charges with an emotional defence of her decision to send her son to a grammar school. She said she was acting in the child's best interests.

Ms Harman's choice of school for her son, Joseph, has torn her party in two in the worst internal row of Tony Blair's leadership. But the Shadow Health Secretary insisted: "I have not discussed my resignation"..... Pages 1, 2, 8

Princess's private secretary resigns

■ The Princess of Wales lost the last of her senior aides when Patrick Jephson, her private secretary resigned. The Princess has also received a demand that she withdraw remarks she allegedly made concerning Victoria Legge-Bourke, the Prince of Wales's personal assistant..... Pages 1, 3

Ashdown offer

Paddy Ashdown made electoral reform the price for working together with Labour to secure at a decade of reforming and modernising government..... Page 2

Girl bride can stay

The Foreign Office said it was virtually powerless to bring home a 13-year-old British girl who has undergone a marriage ceremony with a Turkish waiter she met on holiday..... Page 3

Head remembered

The daughter of Philip Lawrence, the headmaster stabbed to death, led a congregation of 2,000 at Westminster Cathedral praying "for the courage to stand up for what is true"..... Page 4

Knives given up

A jungle spear 5ft long, samurai swords, and a blood-stained kitchen knife were among more than 37,500 weapons handed in during an amnesty on knives, police said..... Page 4

Lottery grants

Budding sports stars are to receive National Lottery grants worth thousands of pounds to fund their training. Would-be artists and performers will also benefit..... Page 5

Navy compensation

A Royal Navy fitter who says he suffered brain damage from exposure to a strong solvent was awarded £280,000..... Page 6

Lucy gets away with murder

■ Lucy, an English Bull Terrier which killed a cat, walked free when a magistrate ruled that she was only doing what dogs do and awarded costs against the police. Michael Collins, her owner, said that the case had been a waste of taxpayers' money and added: "If Lucy had been found guilty, it would have been a death sentence for all dogs"..... Page 1

Under the hammer

Zany contraptions and Heath Robinson-style inventions that their creators hoped would improve the world are to be auctioned today..... Page 6

German crisis

German employers and union representatives hold talks today with Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, to press him to stem unemployment and halt the country's economic decline..... Page 9

Yeltsin under fire

President Yeltsin's bungling of the Chechen insurrection has deepened most Russians' alienation. The two parties sponsored by the Kremlin won only 11 per cent of the popular vote..... Page 10

Tax debate

Against the odds, this year's plodding race for the Republican presidential nomination has finally generated a debate of real substance — the abandoning of tax progressiveness..... Page 10

Jupiter mystery

The fiery descent by *Galileo's* probe into the atmosphere of Jupiter has left astronomers with a puzzle over just how planets formed..... Page 11

Arafat's vote

The results of the first Palestinian election have confirmed that the poll could be likened to an internal ballot for Yasser Arafat's Fatah grouping..... Page 11



Three great grandchildren of Lord Home of the Hirsel, Michael Douglas, Iona Douglas-Horne and Mary Douglas-Horne, at the memorial service for the former Prime Minister in Westminster Abbey yesterday. Page 16

BUSINESS

Fokker: The Dutch plane-maker, was deciding whether to seek court protection from creditors. Any closure would be a blow for workers at Short Brothers in Belfast, who build wings for Fokker jets, and for Rolls-Royce, which supplies engines..... Page 23

Options: Archie Norman, chief executive at Asda, has made more than £3 million by exercising his share options in the last six months..... Page 23

Fortis: The £3.8 billion bid by Granada closes at lunchtime today..... Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 5.8 points to 3754.2. Sterling rose from \$2.8 to \$2.9 after a rise from \$1.5105 to \$1.5147 and DM2.2351 to DM2.2354..... Page 26

SPORT

Rugby union: Richard Dourthe, the France centre, risks suspension if his federation accepts match video evidence of foul play against England..... Page 44

Tennis: Brenda Schultz-McCarthy delivered the fastest service recorded by a woman (122mph) but was beaten by Martina Hingis, 15, in the fourth round of the Australian Open..... Page 40

Cricket: Muttiah Muralitharan, who was recently no-balled for throwing, was included in Sri Lanka's World Cup party..... Page 42

Boxing: Colin McMillan, the former Commonwealth, European and WBO featherweight champion, is to fight for nothing as a protest against not been able to find work in the ring..... Page 44

ARTS

Theatrical revival: Last year he was at death's door. Now life is full of revivals for the veteran playwright Willis Hall, the man who wrote *The Long and the Short and the Tall*..... Page 37

Lighter touch: The Royal Ballet's production of *The Sleeping Beauty* may have cost half a million but the lighting is appalling..... Page 37

Shocking stuff: The Czech artist Jana Sterbak wires up an enigmatic sofa at the Serpentine Gallery, while at the Liverpool Tate, Susan Hiller assembles a compelling homage to herism..... Page 38

Slow start: Hugh Masekela, godfather of South African pop, left it dangerously late to reveal the true measure of his talent in his Festival Hall gig..... Page 39

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

JUMBO EFFECTS

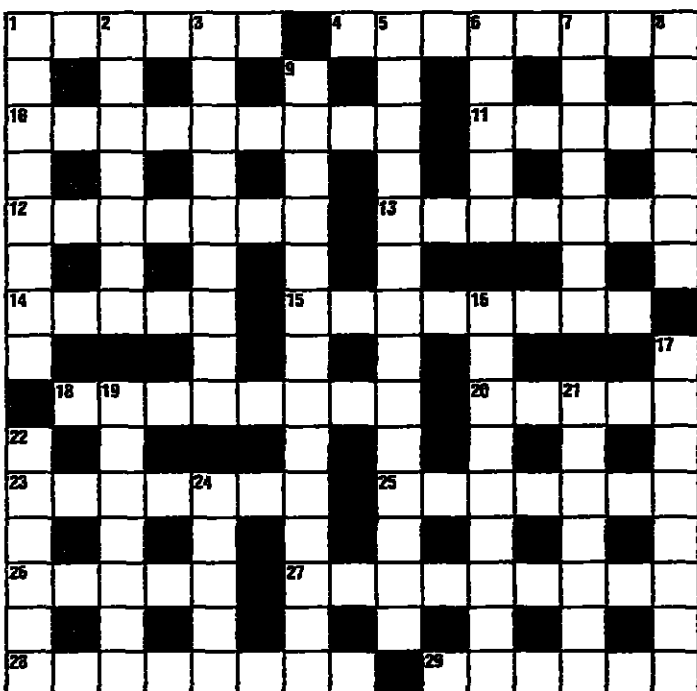
Interface goes to the movies to see the special effects animals upstaging the actors

ARTS

Sir Francis Drake sails back into controversy at Greenwich 400 years after his death



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,071



ACROSS

- 1 Select unknown, in form (10).
- 4 Well-known climber and 1 scale Mt. Tumbledown (5).
- 10 Instrument for off-beat calls (9).
- 11 Joyful air of a former king of Romania (5).
- 12 Barbary Coast character with rough appearance, say (7).
- 13 Such a welcome behind inn, would be a novelty! (7).
- 14 Runs over act, a musical piece (5).
- 15 Solution for keeping the Cows-wild clean (5-3).
- 18 Secondary class (8).
- 20 Pipe up in this section of the flight (5).
- 23 Go too high up with attempt (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,070

BUTTERSCOTCH
R A A W U L C W
A S I A W I O M E G A
N T Y T U R U L
T H E S E W I N D O W
U N
B O U N D S T E N A C I V E
E P R B C
R I G O R O U S M A S S I V E
E E B S I
M A I N F O L D V E R S O
C O I O I S M C O
T I E R C A T H E D R A L
E Y G A U N E
C O N N I N G T O W E R

DOWN

- 2 City in which GI coach is blown about? (7).
- 6 Dull combination with bishop and king in play (5).
- 27 As much as a sewer can hold? (9).
- 28 Catastrophe associated with Kipling's triumph (8).
- 29 Permission to leave Bassenthwaite (6).
- 1 Risk going over lines in court (8).
- 2 Here's 'uppin' for a painkiller (7).
- 3 Lots of people performing melody about popular girl (9).
- 5 Look! Tenpence is fiddled to make money corruptly (4,4,6).
- 6 Tick — tea or coffee? (5).
- 7 Source of pitch can initially interest composer (7).
- 8 Odds on surgical dressing as treatment for fracture (6).
- 9 Agreement, in writing (14).
- 16 Crumbs and things under piano (4).
- 17 Twice tolerate a minor burn (8).
- 19 Futile advice to the prodigal (7).
- 21 Pinch a bit (7).
- 22 Unhealthy tick on wild bird (6).
- 24 Lyric poet feels strong emotion (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code

Greater London	701
North-Surrey, Sussex	702
Don't Hurts 3-10W	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wales, Glouce, Avon, Dorset	705
Seaside, Devon	706
South-West & Essex	707
North, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shropshire & W. Wales	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humbers	713
Derby & Derby	714
Lincoln & Humbers	715
NW England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
W & E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
SW Scotland	720
SW Scotland & Borders	721
Edin & Fife, Loch & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Edin & Fife, Loch & Borders	724
NW Scotland	725
Gallopers, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic advice, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	728
Area with M25	729
SW England: Devon, Dorset, Cornwall	730
North-Surrey, Sussex, Kent	731
M25 London Orbital only	732
National traffic and roadworks	733
National emergency	734
West Country	735
Wales	736
Midlands	737
East Anglia	738
North-West England	739
North-East England	740
Scotland	741
Northern Ireland	742

AA Roadwatch is updated at 10.15 pm on weekdays and 10.15 pm on weekends

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Garmouth, 9C (48F); lowest day temp: Buxton, 0C (32F); highest rainfall: 11.1 in (0.44 in); highest sunshine: 10.1 hr (4.0 hr)

A quest for knowledge!

(4, 8)

SWAN HILLER'S

0271 800 2200

FORECAST

General: rain, preceded by sleet and snow, will spread north across much of England and Wales during the day, reaching North Wales and central areas of England after dark. The North West will stay largely dry, but there may be some sleet and snow in the East.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a cloudy day. The brightest and driest weather will be in the West and sleet and snow will affect areas further east. Snow showers are likely over higher ground and in the far North.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, W Midlands, N Wales: outbreaks of rain preceded by sleet and snow. Wind east, moderate, fresh at times. Cold. Max 5C (41F).

Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales: outbreaks of rain, preceded by sleet or snow. Wind east, moderate. Cold.

In wind. Max 5C to 7C (41F to 45F).

E England, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands: cloudy with sleet or snow at times. Wind east, mainly moderate. Cold. Max 3C (37F).

NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Moray Firth, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: mostly dry, some bright spells. Wind southeast or east, mainly moderate. Max 3C to 5C (37F to 41F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: snow showers with some brighter spells. Wind southeast, strong, near gale at times. Cold in wind. Max 3C (37F).

Outlook: scattered snow showers likely in the East and South, cloudy with some brighter spells in the West.

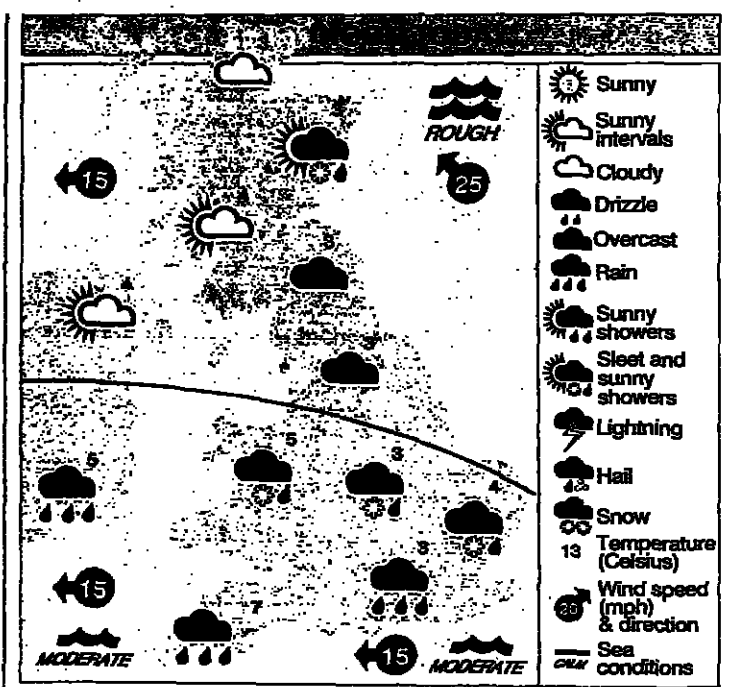
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b = bright; c = cloudy; d = drizzle; ds = dust storm; du = dust; f = fog; g = gale; h = hail; i = rain; s = shower; sl = sleet; sn = snow; s = sun; l = thunder

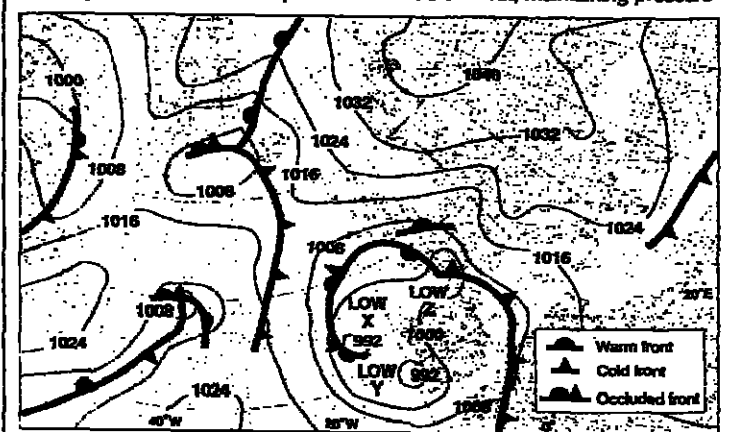
Area	Sun	Rain	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Humidity	Pressure
Aberdeen	0.02	0.02	0.02	4	32	h	1016
London	0.02	0.02	0.02	7	45	c	1016
Manchester	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Cardiff	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Edinburgh	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Belfast	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Birmingham	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Nottingham	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Sheffield	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Leeds	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Bradford	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Coventry	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Derby	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Gloucester	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Swansea	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Cardiff	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Exeter	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Bristol	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Southampton	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Plymouth	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
London	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Manchester	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Cardiff	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Edinburgh	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Belfast	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Birmingham	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Nottingham	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Sheffield	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Leeds	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Bradford	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Coventry	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Derby	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Gloucester	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Swansea	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Cardiff	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Exeter	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Bristol	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Southampton	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016
Plymouth	0.02	0.02	0.02	5	41	c	1016

ABROAD

Area	Sun	Rain	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Humidity	Pressure
Accra	14	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Algeria	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Amman	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Baghdad	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Bangkok	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Bombay	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Buenos Aires	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Calcutta	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Cairo	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Colon	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Hong Kong	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
London	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Madras	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Manila	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Mexico City	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Moscow	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
New Delhi	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Paris	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Rangoon	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Seoul	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Singapore	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Taipei	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Tokyo	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016
Yokohama	11	57	1	23	12	h	1016



Changes to the chart below from noon: low X will drift southwest and fill; low Y will edge east and low Z will push northwest then west, maintaining pressure



HIGHEST & LOWEST

Today: Highest day temp: Garmouth, 9C (48F); lowest day temp: Buxton, 0C (32F); highest rainfall: 11.1 in (0.44 in); highest sunshine: 10.1 hr (4.0 hr)

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun sets: 7.52 am; Moon sets: 8.56 am; Sun rises: 4.33 pm; Moon rises: 1.41 pm

London 4.33 pm to 7.51 am; Bristol 4.43 pm to 8.01 am; Exeter 4.28 pm to 8.23 am; Portsmouth 4.34 pm to 8.05 am; Penzance 4.04 pm to 8.07 am

First quarter January 27

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مكتبة الأمل



LAW 31-33

When barristers have bulletproof protection



ARTS 37-39

A new lease of life for Willis Hall — and his finest play



SPORT 40-44

Giles calls shots in Britain's Olympic hockey campaign

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 42, 43

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY JANUARY 23 1996

Daimler cuts off Fokker's cash lifeline

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

DIRECTORS of Fokker, the Dutch aircraft manufacturer, were meeting last night to decide whether to seek court protection from creditors after its parent, Daimler-Benz, cut off its cash lifeline.

The German industrial group said it would "cease the financial support with immediate effect" and was making DM2.3 billion of related provisions (€1.03 billion) after failing to agree a rescue with the Dutch Government.

Announcing a strategic shift to focus on its profitable transport businesses where prospects are brightest, Daimler forecast losses for 1995 of DM6 billion (€2.68 billion), including provisions of a fur-



ther DM1.5 billion (€671 million) to restructure its electronics subsidiary AEG Daimler-Benz Industrie.

Jürgen Schrempf, Daimler's chairman, said: "Profitability must take precedence over revenues. With over 80 per cent of our businesses running satisfactorily, we owe it to shareholders not to allow the other 20 per cent to impede overall performance."

The decision marks a retreat by Daimler from its ambitions to lead the European aerospace industry. Manfred Bischoff, chairman of Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa), said: "Future activities in civil aircraft manufacturing will centre on the further development and expansion of the European Airbus."

Airbus is a consortium in which Daimler works with British Aerospace, Aérospatiale of France and Casa of Spain.

The future of Dornier, Dasa's German turboprop arm, is now in doubt, together with that of MTU, Daimler's jet engine builder. BMW Rolls-Royce, a 50-50 joint venture, wants to buy it, but talks are complicated because of collaboration between MTU and Pratt & Whitney, one of Rolls's chief rivals.

Herr Schrempf said that Daimler will return to profit in 1996. But Fokker's future looks bleak. It has been kept afloat

by Daimler since last August, when it emerged that first-half losses of 651 million guilders (€260 million) had left the company technically insolvent. The company has been brought down by the strengthening of the guilder against the US dollar, in which aircraft are priced, and by its high cost base.

Last year, Fokker delivered around 40 of its 80 to 100-seat F100 and F70 jets, twice as many as its chief rival, the British Aerospace Avro RJ "whisper jet". But BAE, which has restructured its regional aircraft business and formed a joint regional aircraft marketing company with Aérospatiale and Alenia of Italy, was able to snap up several key orders.

Despite shedding 3,900 workers in the past three years, Fokker still has a workforce of 7,900, mainly on a site at Amsterdam airport. The Dutch Government will remain under intense pressure to orchestrate a rescue of parts of the business, but has apparently concluded that the price of saving the civil aircraft activity is too high.

Closure would be a blow for Short Brothers in Belfast, which builds wings and other parts for the Fokker jets, and for Rolls-Royce, which supplies the Tay engines. Short's parent, Bombardier of Canada, has been mentioned as a possible rescuer of Fokker but has denied interest.

It will also hit operators, who will see residual values fall, although Daimler is to "explore all possibilities for ensuring that operators continue to receive technical support for Fokker aircraft".

Pennington, page 25
Cash prop, page 27



Carol Galley, MAM vice-chairman, flanked by deputy chairman Stephen Zimmerman and Hugh Stevenson, chairman, yesterday

Forte's fate settled by lunchtime

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE future of Forte will be decided by lunchtime today as the acrimonious two-month takeover battle with Granada draws to its conclusion. The result is expected later this afternoon.

Mercury Asset Management (MAM), whose 15 per cent stake is regarded as pivotal to the outcome of the bid, yesterday held meetings with Whitbread, the brewing company. Whitbread's £1 billion deal to buy Forte's roadside businesses is conditional on Forte surviving the £3.8 billion takeover. Other major shareholders whose support will determine the outcome

include Gartmore and Prudential, who both own 3 per cent, and Barings, Legal and General and ESN, who all own 2.5 per cent of Forte.

Granada said it was "quietly confident" of the bid succeeding. The company holds 10 per cent of Forte's shares, while most observers believe that it has secured the support of MAM.

Forte confirmed that Sir Rocco Forte, the company's chief executive, had increased his personal shareholding to around 1.9 per cent after buying shares worth £14.7 million at 37p on Friday. Forte can rely on support from

its directors, who control around 7 per cent of the company in total and a majority of private shareholders who own 15 per cent.

The votes will be counted as soon as the offer period closes at 1pm today at Barclays Registrars, in Throgmorton Street in the City. The result should be known within a few hours. If Granada falls short of the required 50 per cent acceptance, the offer immediately lapses and the company is unable to make a renewed bid for at least a year.

If the bid is successful, the offer becomes unconditional and shareholders who have

not consented to the bid will be given the opportunity to dispose of their shares at the cash price. There is little point in retaining the shares as Forte will lose its listing and is unlikely to pay a dividend.

Once Granada gets more than 40 per cent of Forte's shares it will make a compulsory purchase of the remaining shares.

Forte also confirmed the details of the sale of 67 of the White Hart Hotel chain's 72 properties to Regal Hotels for £122 million.

Regal deal, page 24
Tempus, page 26
City Diary, page 27

Economic growth at lowest for three years

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE British economy expanded by 0.4 per cent in the final quarter of last year, giving the lowest annual rate of growth since early 1993 and vindicating the Chancellor's two recent base rate cuts, according to the City.

Gross domestic product in the final quarter was only 1.8 per cent higher than the same period in 1994, compared with a year-on-year rate of 2.1 per cent in the third quarter. Non-oil GDP also grew by 0.4 per cent and by 1.7 per cent year-on-year. The Central Statistical Office's provisional figures showed stagnating manufacturing, construction still falling and only services ensuring any growth at all.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said political uncertainties were keeping confidence levels low in construction and the amount of work in the sector will be little changed over this year.

The City said the economy is clearly growing below its long-term trend rate and the two quarter-point interest rate cuts in December and last week were justified. Many economists argued the huge build-up of stocks in 1995 is yet to be unwound and growth will weaken further.

David Walton, economist with Goldman Sachs, said this will take until mid-year and base rates will be cut by another ½ point to 5.75 per cent in that period. Even with above-trend second-half growth, he still believes the economy will grow just 1.7 per cent in 1996.

Pennington, page 25

Lord Sheppard heads East Coast bid team

By JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAIL privatisation received the backing of one of Britain's most influential businessmen yesterday when Lord Sheppard of Didgmere announced that he is to head the management team bidding for the prestigious InterCity East Coast franchise.

The 63-year-old chairman of Grand Metropolitan, who retires from the Burger King to Smirnoff vodka giant at the end of February, will lead a team of six British Rail managers in the buyout company.

The appointment restores the family tradition of a Sheppard working in the railway industry that ran unbroken for most of the century until two years ago when his brother, an engine driver, retired. His father, John, was also a driver with Great Eastern and LNER before and after nationalisation in 1948.

Lord Sheppard, who received £1.3 million in salary and share options last year, will work two days a week as



In family tradition, Lord Sheppard climbs aboard yesterday

non-executive chairman of the buyout team during the bid, before easing back to between two and five days a month.

His appointment will bring fresh credibility to a privatisation that has to date failed to excite a sceptical City. His only previous involvement with the railways was as a part-time member of the BR board between 1985 and 1990. He first got to know Brian Burdall, the director of East

Coast, who will become chief executive if the bid is successful, when he was on the British Railways Board and Mr Burdall was head of BR's parcels operations.

The franchise for East Coast, which operates high-speed services on the recently electrified London Kings Cross to Edinburgh route, is expected to be awarded in April. Four companies have been short-listed.

British Gas in power plant deal

BRITISH GAS has teamed up with Scottish Hydro Electric to build a £315 million gas-fired power station which will start generating in 1998 (Christine Buckley writes).

Siemens, the German industrial group, will start work on the 755-megawatt plant at Avonmouth, near Bristol, later this year. The majority of the fuel will be supplied by British Gas. Scottish Hydro will buy from British Gas at "competitive rates which reflect the risks and uncertainties in the evolving gas and electricity markets" for 10½ years. The electricity company is also committed to taking all the electricity produced by the plant for the same length of time.

A spokesman for British Gas said: "This will go a little way to reducing our gas surplus under the take-or-pay contracts, but only a short way." The plant will create more than 500 jobs.

Pilot study delay, page 24

Norman pockets the £3m difference at Asda

By SARAH BAGNALL

ARCHIE NORMAN, chief executive of Asda, has made more than £3 million by exercising share options in the past six months.

Mr Norman, who received a total pay package worth £567,000 last year, made a £1.8 million instant pre-tax profit on Friday by exercising 2.4 million of the share options granted to him since joining the supermarket group in 1991.

The transaction follows a similar move in July when Mr Norman made a £1.6 million profit by exercising more than 2 million share options. The profits incur tax at 40 per cent. In the same month the retailer granted share options to some 56,000 employees — about half the workforce.

The company yesterday granted a further 791,895 share options to Mr Norman, 41, lifting the total held to 4.5 million, of which 200,820 are currently exercisable. The bulk of the remaining options — 2 million — relate to the

group's long-term incentive plan and are not exercisable until the end of this year and only then depending on whether the group has met certain financial targets. If the targets are met — and Asda is on course to do so — the share options can be exercised at a price of 0.1p. Yesterday's closing share price was 108p, down 3p on the day.

Under the terms of the group's long-term incentive plan, Mr Norman, who along with the rest of the board moved to a one-year contract last year, may be preparing to move on.

Another factor may be the £2 million odd that Mr Norman could make by exercising the share options held under the long-term incentive plan.

The news came as Asda announced the appointment of Bob Emmott as development director on the management board. He joined from J Sainsbury, the rival supermarket group, where he was managing director of specialist businesses. Mr Emmott, 52, will play a crucial role in the group's attempt to lift the penetration of its own-label products. The appointment follows last week's promotion of four executives to the management board.



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Heavy users call for electricity pool to be referred to the MMC

Shake-up sought on power prices

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

PRESSURE is growing for a shake-up of electricity pool pricing from industrial users. Yesterday the Energy Intensive Users Group called for a referral of the pool — which sets the price of electricity throughout the day — to the Monopolies and Mergers Committee.

In evidence to the MMC's inquiry into the planned mergers of National Power and Southern Electric and PowerGen and Midlands, the

group complained about the functioning of the pool. Ian Blakey, chairman of the industrial users group, said: "The real competition problems in the electricity market are the result of the pool structure, which is effectively a monopoly."

The group's call comes amid more widespread pressure from large electricity users as they approach a huge rise in a charge made to allow them to buy power at competitive prices. The industrial groups, which are seeking meetings

with the electricity regulator to question the pricing, raise further concerns about the costs of competition for the domestic market — a matter that the regulator is expected to rule on imminently.

The charge made to suppliers to allow 100kW customers into the competitive market will this year leap 89 per cent to £565 per site. Next year it is expected to jump another £100. Large users complain that the level will be ridiculously high and that it is eroding the cost benefits of

competition. Ironically, the electricity pool — which fixes pricing mechanisms — blames a proportion of the jump in the charge on the success of competition. Denis Worth, director of administration, said: "There are no economies of scale. Each time someone requires a meter there is a charge. The price rise is because there has been more interest than anticipated and because the costs are greater than expected."

Roy Chadwick, economic adviser to the Major Energy Users Council, said: "This is at an unacceptably high level because of the way the electricity supply industry is organised by itself." Mr Chadwick blames some of the charge on the fact that the supply industry has invented its own pricing structure.

Bob Speares, technical adviser on electricity to the Utility Buyers Forum, said: "The costs are increasing and reducing the benefits from competition. And because of the errors in introducing competition in 1994 we are still

paying for it." Geoffrey Woods, of the energy purchasing association for local authorities in the South East, said that the increase in charge would mean an extra cost of about £250,000 for the 1,000 sites the authorities have in the South East.

He said: "I've never heard anything so daft as an increase in charge because more people are using a facility." The data collection for the 100kW market is conducted by UKDCS, an agency wholly owned by the Regs.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bank savers 'lose out on interest'

SAVERS who put their money into banks rather than building societies have lost interest worth £24 billion over the past decade, according to a new report based on Bank of England figures. This represents an average of about £800 for every building society saver. The findings by Bradford & Bingley were based on data compiled by the Bank of England and the Central Statistical Office.

In the latest round of speculation on which society will be the next to renounce mutual status in favour of stock market status, Bradford & Bingley has maintained that it wants to remain a mutual. John Wrigglesworth, of the Bradford & Bingley, said: "I cannot think of a better demonstration of mutual status than superior rates of interest on savings." mutual status than superior rates of interest on savings. Lloyds Bank, which last year took over the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, said: "We believe that our savings rates are broadly competitive with the major players, which include building societies."

Bid rethink at US bank

FIRST INTERSTATE has been forced to reconsider a takeover bid by Wells Fargo, which is now worth \$11 billion, raising doubts about an agreed merger with First Bank System of Minneapolis. A rise in shares in Wells Fargo has lifted the value of its bid to almost \$1.5 billion more than the deal with First Bank. A takeover by Wells would form the second largest bank in California and one of the top ten in the US. First Bank's offer suffered a further setback when the Securities & Exchange Commission ruled out important accounting mechanisms and a share buy-back programme that made its bid attractive to its own shareholders.

Life's ups and downs

SUN LIFE OF CANADA and London and Manchester, the latest life companies to report year-end results, enjoyed mixed fortunes. While Sun Life of Canada reported a 28 per cent jump in total new premiums to £172.2 million, L&M reported a 28.6 per cent fall to £23.8 million. The former said total new premiums and investments were up 41 per cent to £285 million, compared with L&M's 11 per cent fall in managed funds on the corporate pensions side to £54.6 million. L&M said retention levels of 1995 renewal business indicated the strategy of merging its home service and direct sales divisions and new business centre openings was paying off.

De La Rue sells plant

DE LA RUE, the banknote and security printer, is selling its plant in Hong Kong to the Hong Kong Government for HK\$255 million (£21.9 million). The plant was established in 1984 and prints Hong Kong dollar currency notes for the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Standard Chartered Bank and the Bank of China. It also produces notes in other currencies for export. The operation, boosted by one-off factors, made pre-tax profits of £9.4 million in the year to March 31, 1995, and had net assets of £6.7 million at the time. De La Rue shares fell 14p to 715p.

Beirut exchange reopens

THE Beirut Stock Exchange resumed trading yesterday after a break of nearly 13 years caused by Lebanon's civil war. Elissar Tamim, deputy trading floor chief, rang the hand-held bell from the pre-war days of open outcry trading to announce the start of operations on the small, computerised trading floor set up by the Paris bourse. But the restart with three listed shares — two cement companies and an industrial piping manufacturer — was quiet compared with trading before the 1983 closure when 42 shares were listed and Beirut was the busiest exchange in the Middle East.

London Scottish up 28%

LONDON SCOTTISH BANK lifted pre-tax profits 28 per cent to £8 million in the year to October 31, helped by an increased demand for consumer credit from the low paid and unemployed. Its consumer credit profits were 28 per cent higher at £4.9 million after the number of loan accounts increased from 106,389 to 119,120. Earnings per share were 9.7p (7.6p) and the dividend for the year is 5p (4.1p), with the final payment of 3.5p due on March 14. The bank has increased its bad debt provision by 18.5 per cent to £1.87 million to cover 12.1 per cent (11.5 per cent) of lending.

Gas leaders to seek a delay for pilot study

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GAS industry leaders will meet Clare Spottiswoode, the Director-General of Gas Supply, today to discuss a delay in the start of a pilot study on competition to supply 500,000 families in the South West.

A report from Chris Rees, the consultant hired by Ofgas to review preparations for the pilot scheme, is expected to give warning that the target date of April 1 will be extremely

difficult to achieve. Delays by the Department of Trade and Industry in drawing up licences for rival suppliers and concerns that the computer system for customer bills remains unproven, have led British Gas to call for the opening up of the market to be deferred until June.

Ms Spottiswoode is expected to urge officials from the DTI, and directors of Transco and its shippers to continue to work towards the target date. Though she now accepts that a delay may be inevitable, she is keen to defer the decision until the last moment.

Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, and his advisers are still hesitating over whether to announce a levy on gas consumers to fund liabilities estimated at £1.5 billion for take-or-pay gas purchase contracts. Big gas users have threatened legal action if the Government introduces a levy, while consumer groups claim it could add £45 to household bills and cause a political storm.

Mounting problems in opening the pilot area to competition are becoming an embarrassment to the Government. John Battle, Shadow Minister for Energy, said ministers had "bungled the introduction of competition" by failing to think through the implications.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Sale	Bank	Sale
Australia \$	2.15	1.99	
Austria Sch	16.75	15.25	
Belgium Fr	49.20	47.20	
Canada \$	2.189	2.009	
Cyprus Cyp£	0.747	0.692	
Denmark Kr	8.46	8.46	
Finland Mk	7.38	8.71	
France Fr	8.05	7.40	
Germany DM	2.35	2.18	
Greece Dr	366.00	361.00	
Italy Lit	12.31	11.31	
Hong Kong \$	7.01	0.93	
Israel Sh	4.460	4.460	
Japan Yen	2500.00	2251.00	
South Korea \$	173.80	157.80	
Malta	0.587	0.532	
Netherlands Gld	2.61	2.41	
New Zealand \$	2.42	2.20	
Norway Kr	10.38	9.59	
Portugal Esc	240.30	224.00	
S Africa Rd	5.28	5.28	
Spain Ps	162.50	152.50	
Sweden Kr	10.81	10.01	
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.76	
Turkey Lira	rel	87999.0	
USA \$	1.507	1.477	

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates at all close of trading yesterday.

Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from close of business on 22nd January 1996 the following Business Cheque and Deposit rates are applicable to the accounts set out below:

Rate per Annum
GROSS % GROSS
C.A.R. %

Business Interest Cheque Account

Instant Access Cheque Account

£250,000+	3.75	3.80
£100,000-249,999	3.50	3.55
£50,000-99,999	3.00	3.03
£10,000-49,999	2.75	2.78
£2,000-9,999	2.00	2.02
£1-1,999	1.50	1.51

Schools Banking Account

4.50 4.58

Capital Reserve Account**

£250,000+	5.15	5.25
£100,000-249,999	5.00	5.09
£50,000-99,999	4.75	4.84
£10,000-49,999	4.25	4.32
£2,000-9,999	3.00	3.03
£1-1,999	1.50	1.51

Practice Call Account*

£100,000+	5.25	5.35
£50,000-99,999	4.50	4.58
£10,000-49,999	4.25	4.32
£2,000-9,999	2.75	2.78
£1-1,999	1.50	1.51

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Ronald Noel-Paton, left, and John Menzies, chairman, blame less profitable contracts

Menzies warning as profits nosedive

BY SARAH BAGNALL

JOHN MENZIES, the retailer and newspaper distributor, yesterday blamed less profitable contracts with publishers for a near-50 per cent drop in interim profits and gave warning that the full-year performance will fail to match expectations.

The shares fell 38p to 580p as City analysts cut their full-year forecasts from about £41 million to £35 million.

The company, which is in the process of restructuring, revealed a drop in pre-tax profits from £7.3 million to £3.8 million in the six months to October 28. The reduction arose in spite of a 9 per cent rise in turnover to £628.4 million.

Ronald Noel-Paton, managing director, said: "We can't deny gravity. The reality is that for perfectly understandable commercial reasons we are looking at a profit hit."

The decline was principally the result of a fall in profits from £13.6 million to £10.8 million from the group's distribution business. Mr Noel-Paton said: "The reduction in profits is due to the loss of margin following publisher contract renewals and repositioning costs." The group is making savings cuts to the number of distribution centres, resulting in redundancy costs. Other operations, including retail, failed to offset reduced profits from the distribution business.

Retail losses fell from £5.8 million to £5.6 million, reflecting difficult market conditions. Group profits were hit by an increased interest bill of £1.4 million, up from £500,000, because of increased investment. The interim dividend, due April 1, was lifted from 4.8p to 4.8p. Earnings per share fell from 7.6p to 3p.

Danka to seek ADR placing

Danka Business, the office equipment supplier, is seeking to raise between £90 million and £105.5 million through an ADR placing in America. The company wants to reduce borrowings, resulting from the purchase of Infotec Europe BV for £104 million. Most of the placing will go to US investors. Danka shares fell 25p to 575p.

European Leisure dips

Shares in European Leisure slid to 170p before partly recovering to 176p, down 9p, after the snooker and nightclub group gave warning that half-year earnings will be below market expectations. However, the company emphasised that operating profits in the six months to December 31 will be in excess of last year.

LBS deal

LBS, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Lambeth Building Society, has bought the £70 million mortgage portfolio of 3,300 home loans from National Mutual Life (NML). The mortgages are linked to NML policies and borrowers will remain customers of the society.

OIS approach

OIS International Inspection, the technical services inspection group, said it had received an approach which could lead to a cash offer for the company higher than the £7.4 million bid from Abbot Group, the oil and gas services company.

Trusts pick up

Investment trusts enjoyed a surge of interest in the fourth quarter of last year, increasing 11 per cent on the previous three months to £46 million.

Regal prepares rights issue over hotels deal

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

SHARES in Regal Hotels were suspended at 44p yesterday as the company prepared a rights issue to pay for its £122 million purchase of White Hart Hotels from Forte.

If the deal is completed, Regal, which owns a string of mid-market hotels in the Midlands and the North, will quadruple in size, taking its hotel holdings from 22 to 89. The sale is conditional on the outcome of the Forte bid battle, although Granada has not ruled out sanctioning the sale if the takeover succeeds.

Regal will pay Forte £90 million in cash and £32 million in 10 per cent redeemable

convertible preference shares. Regal hopes to fund the purchase through a mixture of borrowings and a rights issue. The purchase price is almost three times the company's market cap of £45 million.

Charles Vere Nicoll, chief executive of Regal, said: "The hotels complement our existing chain and several of our senior staff have had direct experience of the White Hart business." Regal was rescued from bankruptcy in 1993 by Mr Vere Nicoll and Christopher Stainforth, joint head of corporate finance at Guinness Mahon, the merchant banker. The company has fuelled its

expansion through rights issues, and its share price, which once stood at just 0.25p, has climbed steadily.

The latest deal was brokered by Charles Peel, of Peel Hunt, the broker, whose brother, Robert, is head of Mount Charlotte Thistle Hotels, and has been talked about as a possible replacement for Sir Rocco Forte as chief executive of Forte.

An earlier Forte deal with Oriel Leisure to sell off White Hart hotels fell through after Apex, the venture capitalists financing the deal, demanded a price reduction.

Tempus, page 26

Superheroes sign up for Bluebird

BATMAN and Spiderman are joining forces with Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. Walt Disney's family favourites (Sarah Bagnall writes). News that Bluebird Toys had signed up the two cartoon characters sent the toy maker's shares up 18p to 338p.

Bluebird has signed a deal with DC Comics, a subsidiary of Time Warner Entertainment, and Hasbro to license Batman, and a separate deal with Toy Biz, an affiliate of Marvel Entertainment, to license Spiderman.

Bluebird has been the subject of bid speculation in recent months. Last October it emerged that Hasbro had converted loan stock resulting in a 7 per cent holding in the company.



Chris Burgin, chief executive, backs Batman



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Who will bell the pensions cat?

IF THE first rule of politics is never decide today what can be put off until tomorrow, the second rule is never admit that some problems may be beyond easy resolution. Both rules explain the remarkable lack of firm ideas from the politicians in the pensions debate.

Like the mice in Aesop's fable, everyone is quite certain of the solution, and what the future of pensions provision must be — away from the State, loaded onto the responsible individual, and hard luck to those who do not provide for themselves. But who has the courage to bell the cat?

A dry-as-dust report due today attempts to provide some of the detail. The independent Retirement Income Inquiry is expected to recommend a two-tier system, a minimum state pension to fund a distinctly frugal lifestyle topped up by a scheme paid into by employees and their employers.

This is, of course, just what we have today. The difference is that the second tier would be compulsory, with the contributions set at a minimum level.

Just as in allied debates over welfare spending generally and the future of the health service, any forward projections of the cost of pensions show clearly that the current system is unsustainable.

able. Britain is rather better off, in demographic terms, than its neighbours. But by 2030 there will be just 2.7 people working for every one enjoying a retirement of sorts. The annual bill for basic state pensions will rise from £26 billion to £42 billion.

Those politicians who have been persuaded above the parapet have been almost unanimous in accepting the need for compulsory provision — privatisation by any other name. If anything, Labour has been more hawkish than the Conservatives, and least inclined to worry over built-up "grandfather rights" of those who are already paying into the welfare system.

The detail, therefore, is the balance between state and private provision. At the extreme, the state pension might be allowed to wither away under the pressure of inflation. This has some fairness in terms of grandfather rights, because the closer your retirement date, the lower the reduction of the state's share. Any changes must run in

parallel with a more flexible approach to retirement, as against the statutory gold carriage clock at 60 or 65.

The losers would be the long-term unemployed, required to subsist on that shrinking state pension and so immersed in their accustomed state of poverty, or the growing army of desperate part-timers, ditto. For the rest, compulsory contributions would provide a boom for those firms providing pensions, at the expense of sales of other savings vehicles, as the "trickle down" of wealth from the one generation is invested in the next generation's old age.

Daimler's hand off the joy-stick

HOW are the mighty fallen. Nemesis came to Daimler-Benz in the shape of a misguided investment less than three years ago in Fokker. Like British Aerospace, Saab, Ford, and too many others, Daimler-Benz

PENNINGTON



made the mistake of believing that building both cars and planes made sense. The aim was to be an all-purpose technology group, clambering out of strong roots in trucks and cars to dominate aerospace, defence, railways and electronics.

The timing could not have been worse. Daimler bought national champions that were ailing, and therefore cheap, because their industries were going global. Even defence, that old state-aided stalwart, was brought to its knees by the collapse of the Berlin Wall. But while Daimler's US rivals merge and restructure, the German

warplane maker must soldier on with inadequate volumes until Europe can agree common procurement policies.

On top of all that, the strength of the mark is crippling the Germans' ability to export, and nowhere more so than in aerospace.

Under Jürgen Schrempf, the man who led Daimler into its misguided Fokker adventure, the company is going back to those roots. More than 60 per cent of the business is going well. Escaping from the rest is the challenge.

By focusing civil aerospace on the company's role as a partner in Airbus Industrie, the European consortium, Daimler can enjoy economies of scale and efficiency. But high costs will remain a problem. Increasingly, sub-assemblies must be sourced from more cost-effective, dollar currency countries overseas.

With Fokker out of the running, Aero International Regional, owned by British Aerospace, Aerospaciale and Alenia, will become the world's

leading regional aircraft builder and the European contender, against Boeing, to develop a replacement regional jet with the Koreans and Chinese.

Back on the gold standard

GOLD prices, it says in all the economics textbooks, rise in response to uncertainties on world financial markets, or as a hedge against inflation — or in the last resort when the metal is seen as an alternative bolt-hole to tumbling equities markets.

So what are we to make of a gold price over \$400 an ounce and expected to stay there? Inflation is being nailed down everywhere, equities are sky-high and, the internal troubles of the old Soviet Union aside, the developed world is at comparative peace.

But the metal has not been at these levels since it was propelled there by Soros and Goldsmith in

summer 1993. There is clearly enough uncertainty over equities to drive some nervous punters into gold's embrace. American funds are known to be buyers. But gold for once may just be that *rara avis*, a market driven by actual demand rather than by speculation.

Gold fabricators, those who make things out of the stuff rather than bet on it, now accept that the price is stable at its current level, and are willing to top up stocks rather than buying into the downturn as they would normally. Things occasionally are that simple.

Leisurely pace

ANOTHER less welcome echo of 1993 came with a set of GDP figures showing the slowest growth since that year. Far from being John Major's enterprise centre of Europe, we are more like the leisure centre. While manufacturing stagnated, services kept growth going. Yes, there was some high street spending, and yes, business services did well. But the real boom came in restaurants, hotels, sports centres and the like. We are buying experiences, not things. The bailiffs can't take those away, can they?

Orange heads for market with £3.3bn price tag

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

ORANGE, the mobile phone company, is to be floated on the stock market in March, valuing the business at an estimated £3.3 billion.

The sale of new shares, amounting to a quarter of the enlarged equity, will repay an estimated £650 million owed to founder shareholders British Aerospace and Hutchison Whampoa, the land-to-ports group owned by Li Ka-shing, the Hong Kong billionaire.

BAE will retain 24 per cent of Orange, worth £790 million at the projected sale price, while Hutchison's remaining 51 per cent could be worth £1.68 billion. The purpose of the sale is

to put a value on the investments held by BAE and Hutchison, and to raise £500 million to finish the network.

Orange, which launched services less than two years ago, in April 1994, now has 400,000 subscribers, rising by 1,000 a day, said Hans Snook, managing director. But with its £1 billion UK network only half completed, it is not expected to be in profit until 1998, while shareholders may have to wait until 2000 for dividends, analysts said.

Shares will be offered to professional investors worldwide in a sale co-ordinated by Dresdner Bank-Kleinwort

Benson and Goldman Sachs International. It will be listed in London and the shares will be traded as American depositary receipts in the US.

The company to be floated, called Orange plc, will become the holding company of Hutchison Telecom UK, which also offers pager services and acts as a service provider for Cellnet and Vodafone networks. Orange plc will include service provider operations in France, where Hutchison has 113,000 subscribers, and Germany, where it has 108,000.

The main focus of the business will be in Britain, however, where Orange has more than 2,000 employees engaged in the battle to overhaul its main rivals. Cellnet, controlled by British Telecom; Vodafone, a quoted company; and Mercury One2One, owned by Cable and Wireless. Valuations are likely to be based upon comparisons with Vodafone, which is capitalised at £6.58 billion. With other businesses stripped out, Vodafone's cellular telephone business, with 2.3 million subscribers, is calculated by Kleinwort Benson to be worth £4.3 billion.

But the price put on Orange will be based heavily upon the likely number of subscribers in the year 2005, when Kleinwort predicts Orange will be serving four million customers. If Orange achieves only three million in ten years, its value could be about £1 billion less than Kleinwort's £3.3 billion "base case", analysts say. But those who believe it will win five million customers may reckon it worth £1 billion more.



Hans Snook needs £500 million for the UK network

Temps, page 26

Profits fly back at USAir

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

BRITISH AIRWAYS' 25 per cent investment in USAir looks at last as if it is coming right. The US airline surged into the black in 1995 after years of heavy losses.

USAir reported a \$119.3 million after-tax profit last year, compared with a loss in 1994 of \$684.9 million. Over the last five years, the company has lost \$3 billion, making its return to profitability even more remarkable. In the final quarter of last year, a loss of \$322 million in 1994 turned into a profit of \$60.3 million this time.

BA had to write down half of its original \$500 million investment in the company last year because of its persistent losses.

The return to profitability owed much to lower costs and better efficiency. There was a small rise in revenue from \$7.0 billion to \$7.5 billion. Last week, USAir appointed Stephen Wolf, who has a reputation for being tough with unions, as new chairman.

Highland buys Macallan stake

By Christine Buckley

HIGHLAND Distilleries, the makers of The Famous Grouse, yesterday took a large stake in Macallan-Glenlivet in a move to spread the company's whisky portfolio.

The distiller, which has a cross-holding with Remy Cointreau from whom it bought the interest, paid £46.6 million for 26 per cent of the equity in Macallan. Since 1994, Highland has been the UK distributor of Macallan.

Brian Ivory, chief executive, said: "We want the international potential of Macallan. The price is relatively full in terms of price-earnings, but we think it is reasonable in view of the prospects." He said the Macallan single malt would be a good complement to the blended Famous Grouse.

A number of analysts declared the price expensive. Guy Farmer, of Kleinwort Benson, said: "This is seen as quite disappointing. Many people had been hoping Highland's next move would be to bolster its stake in Remy. The price is very full and one that is hard to justify."

Highland has an indirect interest of 10.6 per cent in

Remy, while the French company holds 10 per cent of Highland. With its interim results last week, Remy pledged to reduce its debt and said it was looking to sell off peripheral interests.

Last year, Highland, which has launched a high-profile advertising campaign for the Grouse label, bought Black Bottle from Allied Domecq for £12.8 million, to increase the variety of its whisky. Yesterday's purchase will be made for cash and be financed by bank borrowings.

In the year to December 31, 1994 Macallan made pre-tax profits of £6.7 million. Unaudited profits before tax for the six months to June 30 were £2.9 million. Its assets then stood at £52.7 million.

Shares in both companies fell back on the deal. Highland lost 6p to 320p as the market responded to the high price and Macallan suffered because the stake was sold at a substantial discount.

The shares were bought for 152.5p by Highland after closing on Friday at 178p. They fell 18p to 160p yesterday.

Temps, page 26

Farnell expected to announce US acquisition

FARNELL ELECTRONICS, the fast-growing electronic components distributor, is poised to announce a substantial acquisition, probably in America (Philip Pangalos writes).

Shares in Farnell were suspended yesterday at 679p, at the company's request, capitalising the cash-rich group at about £926 million.

Industry experts think Farnell is likely to announce a "sizeable" acquisition.

Newark and Digi-key, two leading US catalogue distribution groups specialising in electronic components, are the firm favourites. Newark, understood to have annual revenues of about \$500 million, was last night seen as the most likely candidate.

Such a deal would probably be worth in the region of \$800 million to \$900 million, requiring a significant equity issue by Farnell. The Wetherby

group had more than £70 million cash when it unveiled a surge in first-half pre-tax profits to £71.3 million in the six months to July 30, including an exceptional profit of £35.3 million from the £81 million sale of the manufacturing division in March.

Howard Poulson, chief executive, said at the time that the company planned further overseas expansion. Farnell already has operations in 14

countries, and nearly half the group's business is now conducted overseas.

It launched a catalogue business last summer in the US and Singapore. The group had designed a new catalogue containing 35,000 lines and in October opened a distribution warehouse in South Carolina, initially targeting the East Coast, although orders could be placed by phone or fax from anywhere in the US.

W O R L D B U S I N E S S C L A S S

Unfortun...

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Record run tempered by renewed bond weakness

INVESTORS were treated to another record-breaking run by the London stock market, but it lacked conviction, with share prices closing well below their best of the day.

Equities made a firm start after the weekend break, supported by Wall Street's 60-point rise on Friday and the latest GDP figures showing a marked slowdown in growth to justify the decision of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to cut base rates by a quarter point last week.

But renewed weakness in the bond market and selling of the financial future turned the tide and left the FT-SE 100 index well off its best at the close. It finished 5.8 up at 3,754.2, having been more than 15 points higher early in the day. Total turnover reached 678 million shares.

Once again, there was no shortage of takeover speculation, with Fortis slipping 3p to 37.3p on turnover of 13 million shares ahead of today's 1pm deadline for Granada's £3.9 billion bid. Last night, brokers were convinced that Mercury Asset Management, Fortis's biggest shareholder with a 15 per cent stake, would back Granada, up 2p at 69p.

Standard Chartered rose 5p to 62.5p after briefly touching 63.5p on the back of weekend reports that National Westminster Bank was close to launching a bid. There was no comment from either company yesterday, although Standard is no stranger to bid situations. It fought off an unwanted offer from Lloyds Bank back in the 1980s. NatWest fell 8p to 65.7p.

Asda, the supermarket chain, fell 3p to 108p on learning that Archie Norman had sold a large parcel of shares. He has exercised his options on 2.45 million shares at 36p. The shares were then sold in the market at 110p. He continues to hold a total of 200,820. The sale of the shares has raised fears that Mr Norman may call it a day at Asda. There has been talk that he hopes to stand as an MP in the next General Election.

Shares of Farnell Electronics were suspended at 6.7p pending an announcement. There is speculation that the group is about to make a major acquisition following the disposal of its manufacturing division for £81 million. Since then, Farnell has bought two businesses - Combined Precision Components and the



Martin Powell, chairman of Sleepy Kids, is flying high

French company Spelec - and continues to sit on £70 million in cash.

British Aerospace climbed 1.2p to 88p following confirmation that Orange, the mobile phone operator, is to float in March with a price tag of £2.7 billion. Orange is jointly owned by Hutchison Wharfedale of Hong Kong and BAE. It is expected that about 25

resulted in Orange joining Vodafone among the top 100 companies. Vodafone finished 5p dearer at 231.2p.

BAE was also powered by talk that a major defence contract was about to be awarded by the Saudi Arabian Government following the expulsion of Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Masari. But news that Daimler-Benz had with-

higher. John Menzies, chairman, said he was looking for similar profits in the second half to those achieved during the corresponding period last year, but did not expect to make up the lost ground. The shares responded with a fall of 20p to 589p.

WH Smith is reporting tomorrow and is also expected to reveal a decline in profits. Its shares lost 3p at 406p. Highland Distilleries dipped 6p to 320p after acquiring a 26 per cent stake in rival Macallan Glenlivet from Remy Cointreau, the French distiller, for £46.6 million. Highland, best known for Famous Grouse, the Scotch whisky, paid £52.5p for the 30.6 million shares. Highland originally sold a 12 per cent stake in Macallan to Remy Cointreau back in 1990.

Lloyds Chemists, currently the target of a bid from UniChem, advanced 1p to 420p, dreaming of a possible counter-bid. Gehe, the German drug supplier, is one name being mentioned.

Sleepy Kids, the USM-quoted media group, soared 1.5p to 51p, hoping to glean some benefit from the Duchess of York's deal with US investors over her *Budget* the *Little Hollywood* series. Sleepy Kids has a 15-year worldwide marketing agreement and should benefit from increased merchandising income and television royalties.

GILT-EDGED: Prices in London opened lower, reflecting similar moves on other European bond markets. But after initial selling, prices rallied to close off the bottom. Later today, the Bank of England will issue details of the next auction, which is expected to be pitched in a range of 2000-2005.

In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt traded in narrow limits for much of the session before closing £1.14 higher at 111.12. Trading was half that of Friday, with just 43,000 contracts completed. In the cash market, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 lost £1.2 at £103.72, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 lost £1.1 at £105.16. NEW YORK: Strength in some cyclical stocks pushed the Dow Jones industrial average higher at midday, but weakness in bonds kept a lid on the advance. The Dow was up 9.03 points at 5,193.71, with declining shares inching ahead of advances.

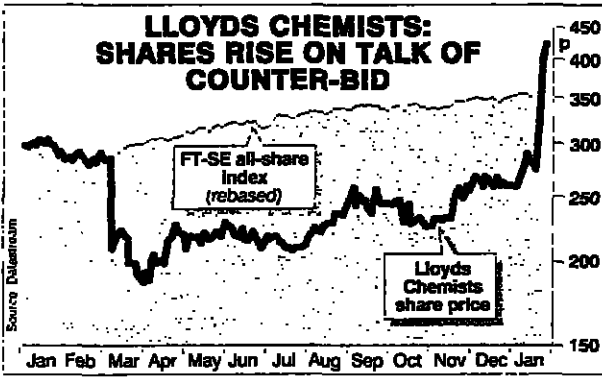
Brokers reported heavy turnover in Lucas Industries with the price climbing 14p to 202p as 10.44 million shares changed hands. This flurry of activity has been prompted by suggestions that it is close to disposing of its aerospace interests. Analysts say the business could command at least £200 million.

per cent of the company will be offered to institutions and private investors. This would reduce Hutchinson Wharfedale's stake from 68.5 per cent to about 50 per cent, with BAE down from 31.5 per cent to less than 24 per cent.

At the last count, Orange had more than 400,000 subscribers, a figure which is expected to double within the next year. The size of the issue

drawn support for its troubled Fokker subsidiary left *Rolls-Royce*, the aeroengine maker, 3.5p lower at 197.5p.

Half-year figures from John Menzies, the newsagent and newspaper wholesaler, showed pre-tax profits virtually halved at £3.8 million. The group blamed the cost of restructuring, higher interest rates and low consumer demand. Sales overall were



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5193.71 (+9.03)
S&P Composite 612.84 (+1.01)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20196.53 (+169.23)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 10955.33 (+191.24)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 308.43 (+0.15)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries 2260.60 (+13.50)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2290.52 (+8.23)

Singapore:
Straits 2448.52 (+45.34)

Brussels:
General 8938.83 (+27.96)

Paris:
CAC-40 1954.42 (+9.86)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 728.40 (+4.03)

London:
FT 30 3754.2 (+5.8)
FT 100 3754.2 (+5.8)
FT-SE Mid 250 4078.2 (+4.8)
FT-SE 100 3754.2 (+5.8)
FT-SE 1000 1834.6 (+5.5)
FT A All-Share 1834.6 (+5.5)
FT Non Financials 1932.35 (+2.61)
FT Fixed Interest 115.23 (+0.22)
FT Govt Secs 96.30 (+0.02)

SEAG Volume 4364
USM (Daimler) 162.26 (+1.11)
German Mark 1.5147 (+0.0003)
Exchange Index 62.9 (+0.01)
Bank of England official rate (4pm) 5.25%
ECU 1.81
ESDR 1.0451
RPI 130.7 Dec 1994 Jan 1995
RPI 130.7 Dec 1994 Jan 1995

RECENT ISSUES

Century Inns	116
Cox Insurance	113
Crown Products	55
Dunelm	85
Jupiter Split Cap	85
Jupiter Split Inc	85
Mountcashel	85
Nitin Petm Wrs	8
Revelation Pte	105
Skypharma n/p (4)	4
Western Sec	135

RIGHTS ISSUES

Eleco Holdings n/p (28)	28
Persona n/p (225)	25
SWP Group n/p (2)	1
Seaford Res n/p (65)	25
Skypharma n/p (4)	4
Western Sec n/p (14)	14

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:	
Sleepy Kids	51p (+13p)
Tadpole Tech	70p (+8p)
2000-2005	285p (+28p)
Border-Tech	285p (+24p)
Lucas Ind	202p (+14p)
Cortec	224p (+14p)
Brit Data Mgt	160p (+10p)
JD Wetherspoon	700p (+43p)
Canada Pharm	410p (+25p)
Blackdog Toys	338p (+10p)
CMG	950p (+15p)
HTV Group	333p (+15p)
Thomson Corp	895p (+30p)
Lloyds Chem	420p (+11p)
Osborne & Little	375p (+10p)
Peace Systems	327p (+8p)
Peel	778p (+19p)
London Clubs	444p (+11p)
Yorkshire TV	778p (+19p)
Courtauld	488p (+19p)

FALLS:	
Macallan-Glen	160p (-18p)
John Menzies	580p (-38p)
Danka Bk Sys	575p (-23p)
De La Rue	715p (-13p)
GUS	692p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Apples and Orange

EXPECTATIONS of the flotation of Orange have been so well embedded into the British Aerospace share price that the mobile phone group had little new to tell the market yesterday. Profit forecasts are clearly out of the question in a start-up venture but Orange will be unable even to spice its prospectus with revenue projections, excluded to comply with American regulators.

Part of the problem facing Orange is the credibility gap left by the cable companies whose shares were sold on the basis of discounted cash flow valuations. The same methodology is being used by analysts to value Orange: the net present value of projected revenues over the next ten years. Orange's backers will point out that, unlike cable operators, mobile phone companies have a proven franchise but even minor

adjustments to the rate at which earnings are discounted will swing the valuation heavily. At least one house is valuing Orange on this basis at £3.1 billion or some £2.7 billion, less its borrowings. The market values Vodafone with its 2 million-plus subscribers at £6.9 billion (plus debt) or £4.6 billion, less the overseas businesses. It is difficult to square a valuation of £3 billion for only 400,000 Orange subscribers with the market worth of Vodafone's 2 million but the argument is that Vodafone's analogue subscribers will switch to digital systems like Orange.

Initial valuations should be seen as bargaining chips and there is no doubt institutional investors will be talking down the price. As both Hutchison and BAE are not selling shares there is no reason for Orange to be floated at an expensive premium.

Highland

IN A move to expand its portfolio, Highland Distilleries has dug deep into its pocket for a 26 per cent stake in Macallan-Glenlivet.

Highland, producer of the Famous Grouse, whisky brand, is paying £46.6 million or 31 times earnings for a share in Macallan, a full price to say the least. Highland already distributes Macallan and believes the cost is justified in terms of Macallan's potential and because it broadens the earnings of the distiller across a wider range of whiskies.

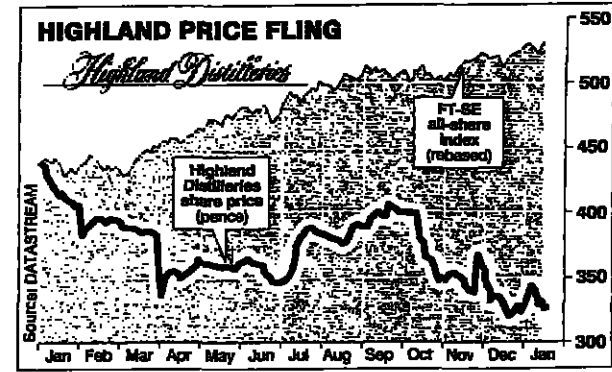
The investment will dilute Highland's earnings by about 2 per cent but is part of a larger strategy to build up its portfolio of brands. Hence, the purchase last year of Black Bottle.

Backing up a broader exposure is Highland's link

into international distribution deals. Highland reckons its relationship with Remy Cointreau - from whom it bought the Macallan interest - has boosted sales of the Grouse considerably by opening important distribution channels in Europe.

Cross shareholdings further cement the two companies, and the sale of the

stake marks another stage in Remy's debt reduction programme. But investors will wonder whether the French got the better end of the bargain. Many whiskies are harder to sell abroad than their blended brethren, and the international expansion of the Famous Grouse will be difficult to replicate with Macallan-Glenlivet.



Gas/Scot Hydro

MOVING down the gas chain is the fashion for energy companies. Gas is an attractive and plentiful fuel but difficult and expensive to transport. Oil companies with large gas reserves are seeking to invest in power projects to add value to their assets at a time when gas prices are falling but moving down the chain is not a simple way to maximise returns.

British Gas has more product than it knows what to do with and yesterday took a half share in a proposed combined cycle gas turbine station near Bristol. The base-load fuel will probably be supplied from Scottish Hydro's contract over the Erskine field and BG has agreed a ten-year supply contract to top up Scottish Hydro's gas.

However, the gas market has turned in favour of buyers and BG has agreed to link as much as half of the

gas to the electricity price, reckoned to be in a long downward trend.

In the UK, power projects can provide an extra market for gas as well as profits in their own right. BG is converting a coal-fired station to gas in Northern Ireland. However, there is no certainty of vertical integration abroad. Competition for power projects in the developing world is intense and governments are unlikely to give BG two bites at the cherry.

Regal Hotels

THE directors at Regal, the hotel group, certainly know how to conjure up a wizard deal or two. Turning a debt-ridden shell of a company into a viable hotel group in just three years requires some deft manoeuvres. Yesterday, with just one more wave of its wand, Regal quadrupled its size and earned reams of free publicity on the back of Fortis's defence. The

White Hart chain is a good fit with Regal's existing hotels and many of its managers have first-hand experience of running the hotels as former Fortis employees.

But celebrations are premature: by this evening the deal may disappear in a puff of smoke and Regal will return to its role as hotel minor. Success is dependent on the outcome of the Granada bid for Fortis today, although Granada has not ruled out sanctioning the sale if it wins. Equally, Regal is not disclosing how it will finance the purchase.

So far the company has built its business with acquisition backed by frequent share issues. The £122 million purchase price is almost three times Regal's stock market value and suggests a substantial tranche of Regal paper is on its way. Until the full details emerge shareholders may feel sceptical.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE				ICE OILS (London 60000)				GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
COCOA				CRUDE OIL \$/barrel FOB				WHEAT (BARS)			
Mar	105-102	May	105-102	Brent	17-05	+0.20	Jan	120-05	Jan	112-85	
Apr	105-102	Jun	105-102	Brent 15 Jan (Mar)	16-80	+0.20	Mar	121-05	Mar	113-95	
Jul	105-102	Sep	105-102	WTI	17-00	+0.15	May	122-05	May	115-00	
Oct	105-102	Dec	105-102	WTI Intermediate (Apr)	17-00	+0.15	Jul	123-05	Jul	116-00	
Nov	105-102	Feb	105-102	WTI Intermediate (Apr)	17-00	+0.10	Oct	124-05	Oct	117-00	
Volume	7328						Volume	275		Volume	22
ROBUST COFFEE \$				PRODUCTS \$/MT				POTATO \$/lb			
Mar	150-152	May	150-152	Spot CIF (Feb-Mar)	150-152	+0.10	Jan	200-00	Jan	200-00	
Apr	151-152	Jun	151-152	Premium: Gas E 150-152	150-152	+0.10	Mar	200-00	Mar	200-00	
Jul	151-152	Sep	151-152	Galaxy EEC	150-152	+0.10	May	200-00	May	200-00	
Oct	151-152	Dec	151-152	Nov EEC 150-152	150-152	+0.10	Jul	200-00	Jul	200-00	
Nov	151-152	Feb	151-152	WTI 150-152	150-152	+0.10	Oct	200-00	Oct	200-00	
Volume	1048			2.5 Fuel Oil	150-152	+0.10	Volume	10		Volume	10
				Gasoline	150-152	+0.10					
WHITE SUGAR				IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)				RUBBER No 1 RSS CIP (p)			
Mar	307-75	May	307-75	Gas Oil			Jan	1025-25	Jan	1025-25	
Apr	307-75	Jun	307-75	Feb	155-95	+5.75	Mar	1025-25	Mar	1025-25	
Jul	307-75	Sep	307-75	Mar	155-75	+5.00	May	1025-25	May	1025-25	
Oct	307-75	Dec	307-75	Apr	147-50	+5.00	Jul	1025-25	Jul	1025-25	
Nov	307-75	Feb	307-75				Oct	1025-25	Oct	1025-25	
Volume	1127						Volume	10		Volume	10
MEAT & LIVESTOCK				BREXIT \$/00000				BIFEN GEN Ltd \$/000			
Mar	150-152	May	150-152	Mar	150-152	+5.95	Jan	150-152	Jan	150-152	
Apr	150-152	Jun	150-152	Apr	150-152	+5.95	Mar	150-152	Mar	150-152	
Jul	150-152	Sep	150-152	May	150-152	+5.95	May	150-152	May	150-152	
Oct	150-152	Dec	150-152	Jun	150-152	+5.95	Jul	150-152	Jul	150-152	
Nov	150-152	Feb	150-152				Oct	150-152	Oct	150-152	
Volume	1127						Volume	10		Volume	10

THE
TIMESCITY
DIARYArcher in the
frame for win

LORD ARCHER is counting his winnings after a hectic week. He started playing the money markets and then came up trumps when he bought and sold a painting by Edward Armitage (who illustrated Henry Cecil Lewis's books).

The flurry of investment activity was part of a competition for the April issue of *Esquire* magazine. Lord Archer said: "I don't think I'm winning — it's one of those gambles. I only lasted two minutes on the money markets. But I was a bit lucky because the Chancellor brought the interest rate down a ¼ of a per cent, and I made £541 by accident."

"I bought an Armitage for £500, and sold it for £960."

Financial consultant Jeff Randall joined Lord Archer on the money markets. Reputed millionaire Eddie Ford, who owns a pawnbroking empire, set up a charity to raise money for cancer research.

Eddy Shah won in 1993 from games of golf and roulette. He finished £592 ahead.

Close run thing

INSTITUTIONAL Forte shareholders thinking of keeping Granada guessing until the last moment on whether they are going to accept its takeover offer should ensure they have messengers who are fleet of foot. Acceptances of Granada's offer have to be lodged at Barclays Registrars, 8 Angel Court, Threadneedle Street, by 1pm today. There are no excuses for being late.



"Holy smoke — it's a reverse takeover"

Savoy tribute

ANYONE wondering why the flags were flying at half-mast at The Savoy should know that it was in respect for Lord Home of the Hirsel, the former Prime Minister, in whose memory a service of thanksgiving was held in Westminster Abbey yesterday.

Getting the pip

ORANGE has signed up an impressive list of banks to support its forthcoming flotation. However, it's said that Deutsche Morgan Grenfell will not be lending its weight to one of the largest new issues this year ... because of the presence of that other Anglo-German, Dresdner Bank Kleinwort Benson, as lead manager alongside Goldman Sachs.

Halo, halo ...

FROM sinners to saints ... the former head of M16, Sir Colin McColl, is joining the board of The Scottish American Investment Company, aka "Saints", as a non-executive director.

In style

LONDON'S Landmark Hotel, formerly the Regent, is offering from today a collection of "great escapes" which should appeal to National Lottery winners and the highly stressed. Top of the pile is the Ultimate Escape at £3,500 a night, which includes vintage Dom Perignon, Beluga caviar, and a private Bentley chauffeur.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Buoyant export market key
to fulfilling growth targetPhilip Bassett
and Ross
Tieman assess
the 'slippage'
in order books

When Britain's business leaders announce today the findings of the latest temperature-taking industrial trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry, the Government and the City will be keen to see whether the real economy is still taking a breather, or sliding towards recession.

The confidence of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, in agreeing with the Governor of the Bank of England a second quarter-point cut in interest rates last week suggests they think the economy needs only a further touch on the tiller.

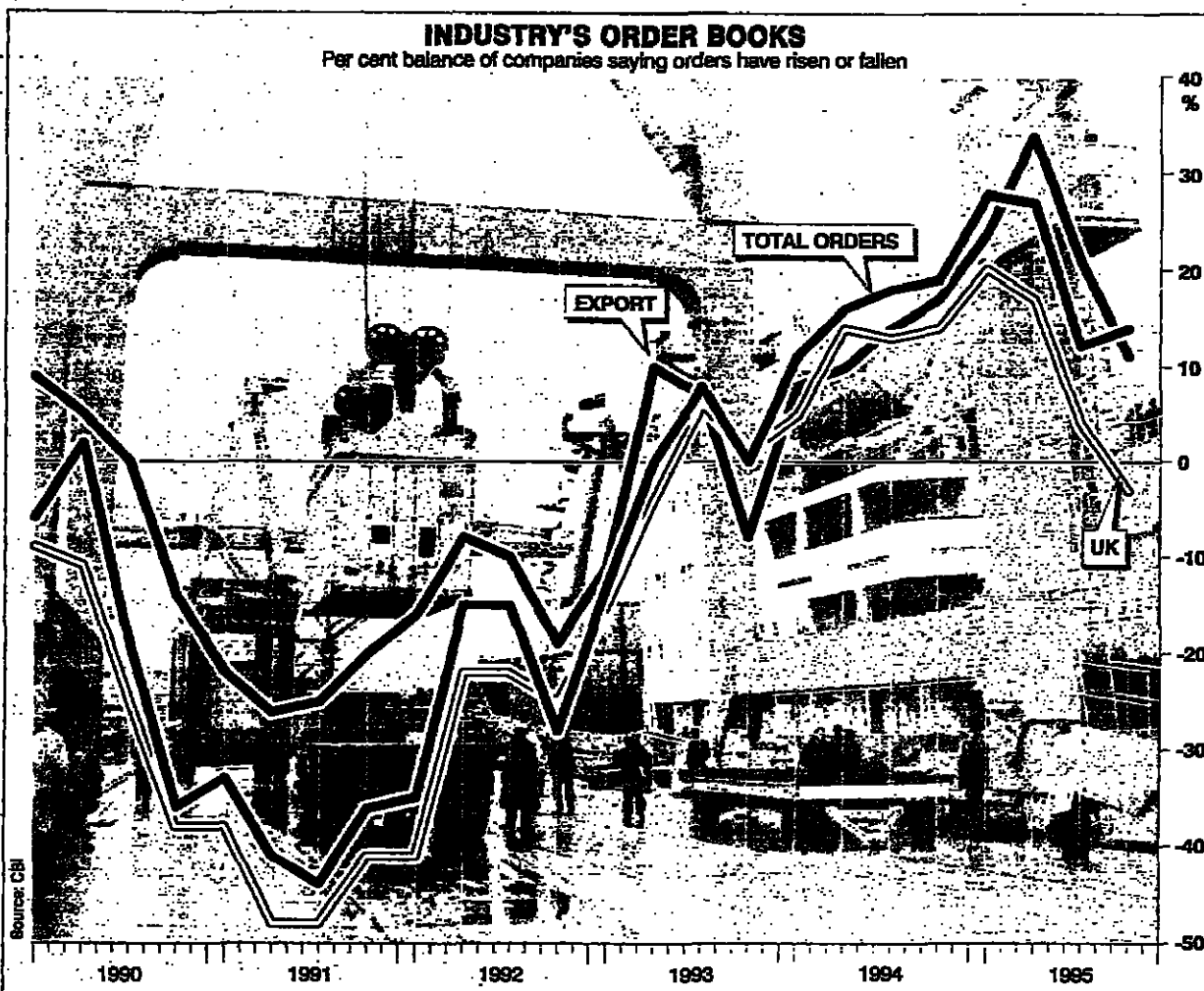
The last CBI survey, in October, contained enough to make business leaders start to feel nervous: in particular, the 3 per cent balance of companies surveyed reporting that domestic orders were falling — the first negative figure for UK order books since spring 1993, after the trough of the recession had bottomed out.

But last week's similar large-scale industrial survey from the British Chambers of Commerce was more sanguine. After months of increasingly anguished noises about the economy, Chambers' leaders were taking a more placid line. The particular significance of today's CBI figures will lie in the suggestion that the real driver of Britain's recovery — exports — may now be easing back, or worse, as overseas markets tighten.

Since the low point of the recession, industry and services have told two stories. For companies operating wholly or mainly in UK markets, the idea of a recovery is largely a joke. For them, the recession has barely ended, if at all. High street retailers, consumer goods sellers, the construction industry, anything resting on British buyers alone has had a hard time. At the same time, companies with any kind of worthwhile export business, or firms servicing exporting companies, such as pharmaceuticals or carmaking, have been doing a great deal better than those without.

The accompanying graphic, using figures drawn from the detail of the CBI's surveys, tells the two stories. Total orders show British manufacturing industry hauling itself slowly back from the bottom in mid-1991, moving into growth two years ago. The graph for domestic orders suggests a tougher time of it. The recession cut much deeper, the recovery was weaker, and the falling away of orders since then, now actually dropping, much more precipitate.

Exports, though, were never hit as hard in the first place, and once Britain's ERM ad-



venture was abandoned, growth was much sharper. But over the past six months export growth has dropped back, with the balance of companies — those reporting an increase in orders set against those registering a fall — that are recording rising exports falling away from 34 per cent last April to 21 per cent in the summer and 11 per cent by October.

"We are still very bullish," says Ian Campbell, Director-General of the Institute of Export, which expects Government figures later this year to show that total UK exports amount to about £150 billion for 1995 — up some 10 per cent or so on even the previous year, which ministers proclaimed as a record. He accepts the export boom has now "fallen off", but adds: "We don't see it falling back."

Even so, economic analysts see the slippage as worrying, partly because the prospects for exports seem to be worsening, if anything, as a number of key target markets see their own economies faltering.

Continental Europe now buys 57 per cent of United Kingdom exports, according to the Department of Trade and Industry. And there, the two biggest economies are faltering. France, where the Government's determination to pull the economy towards meeting the demands of the Maastricht convergence criteria, is cited as a less likely export goal now, as is Germany, where economic slowdown has been unexpected in its timing and its force.

The French authorities are forecasting a pick-up during

the second half of the year, but political uncertainty, the strong franc and inflexible labour markets continue to cast a shadow over economic prospects. It is a similar tale in Germany, where the pace of industrial restructuring in response to the strong mark is gathering pace. Job losses in manufacturing create alarm and sap consumer confidence.

UK exporters have been taking up ministers' exhortations to find markets beyond Europe. Evidence to be published at the end of the month by the carriage company DHL, is expected to show some significant rises in the proportion of exports going to

non-EU markets. Exports to the Asia-Pacific region, for instance, are expected to be up from 30 to 35 per cent of the total.

Economic growth in Asia, from India to China, remains formidably strong. British companies have discovered new markets there, for the full range of British exports. Even British Steel has been reporting strong growth in sales to the region, despite the geographical proximity of the powerful Japanese and Korean steel industries.

Last year the CBI and the DTI made Latin America, and

particularly the new customs union of Argentina, Brazil and Chile, the focus of a drive to find new export markets. But emerging markets will be hard pressed to keep export growth from slackening as European demand slows. Nor can North America, one of Britain's biggest trading partners, be relied upon, in election year especially, to provide the necessary stimulus.

Increased difficulties in European markets mean that many forecasters are suggesting that, this year, domestic growth is central to any rebound in the UK economy from what business leaders have been hoping is genuinely a pause for breath. Earlier this month, for instance, Ernst & Young in its ITEM forecast, using the Treasury's economic model, suggested that if UK demand does not push up, then prospects for hitting the Chancellor's overall growth target of 3 per cent are slim, and growth may end up half that rate, or less.

But many industries are sceptical that their own growth will be as strong as that. In printing, for instance, after what, in the main, was a good year in 1995, general printers are still optimistic about this year — but that optimism is heavily tinged with caution. The British Printing Industries Federation has seen its state-of-trade figures slip back from an 80 per cent balance a year ago to a quarter of that now — and only 3 per cent of companies expect improving trade over the next three months.

In chemicals, the industry where Britain maintains its

biggest balance of trade surplus, the UK industry may be ahead of the cycle of others. After a year in which UK chemical exports all but disappeared, the industry is projecting a small increase in exports of about 2 per cent — though this is well behind the projected export performance of counterparts in the principal competitor countries.

But that is enough to generate at least some optimism in the industry. Richard Freeman, ICI's chief economist, says that the slight acceleration of chemical growth across Europe as a whole "provides the rationale for stating that the slowdown over the last six months or so represents a pause — and not a slide into a new recession".

Aerospace, our number two export earner, is only at the start of its cyclical upturn after a four-year slump. Recovery at the back end of the year will feed through into British factories only slowly.

Concern over the fading pace of export growth may turn out to be overdone. Optimism about a domestic recovery may prove undeserved. One thing is sure. In the coming months, many British companies will be listening very closely to their customers in Britain and overseas markets before fixing their production plans.

We are still very
bullish ... the export
boom has fallen off
but we don't see it
falling back

Ross Tieman on Daimler's unkindest cut

Fokker left without cash prop

Jürgen Schrempf, the Daimler-Benz chief, succeeded yesterday where Biggles, every British schoolboy's favourite air ace, always failed. He downed Fokker, successor company to the plane-maker that put Baron von Richthofen in the air.

For the 7,900 workers at the Dutch regional aircraft-maker, Herr Schrempf's decision to sever the financial lifeline is a disaster. It will be a concern, too, for Rolls-Royce, which earns £100 million a year from the Tay engines it sells to power the 30 or 40 Fokker jets built every year.

For the hundreds of employees at Short Brothers in Belfast, who build the wings for Fokker's F-70 and F-100 jets, it could spell the dole queue. Fokker's jets are put together in the old-fashioned, labour-intensive way, each wing held together by 25,000 rivets.

The failure to substitute machines for high-cost labour, particularly in The Netherlands, has brought the company to its knees. Despite a proud history, Fokker has found itself too small and too poorly funded to thrive.

In 1993, Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa) agreed to acquire a controlling 51 per cent stake in Fokker for 686 guilders (£274 million). The transaction was only partly completed: the Dutch state still holds a minority of the shares. The deal was part of strategic moves by



Jürgen Schrempf, left, in Stuttgart yesterday, with Manfred Gentz and Manfred Bischoff

Daimler designed to turn Dasa into Europe's leading aerospace business. It assembled Dornier, the turboprop manufacturer, MTU in jet engines, a helicopter business and a powerful warplane activity to underpin its 37.8 per cent stake in Airbus.

But the rapidly increasing strength of the German mark and guildler against the US dollar, in which civil aircraft are priced, began to tear this rickety jigsaw apart.

A battle with BAE's Avro subsidiary for rising order volumes left Fokker selling planes below the cost of production. Despite shedding 3,900 workers in the past three years, Fokker still contrived to lose 651 million guilders dur-

ing the first half of last year. With shareholders' funds effectively wiped out, the company was technically bankrupt. Only Dasa's financial lifeline kept it going until talks with the Dutch Government about a huge cash injection collapsed on Friday.

During the first half, Dasa lost DM1.6 billion, including DM12 bn of provisions. It plans to shed 9,000 workers. Talks with BMW Rolls-Royce, about the possible sale of its jet engine business, appear to have collapsed because of MTU's close ties with Pratt & Whitney. But the pledge by Manfred Bischoff, the Dasa chief, to concentrate on Airbus puts the future of Dornier's turboprops into doubt.

Daimler is now facing a 1995 loss of DM6 billion, including provisions of DM2.3 billion to end its responsibilities at Fokker. Daimler's ambitions to be an "integrated technology concern" have foundered. It is retreating to its core car and truck business, putting its railway business into a joint venture with ABB, radically restructuring its AEG electrical arm.

British Aerospace could be the real winner from Daimler's travails. It is now leading the restructuring of Europe's aerospace and defence industry, from which it appears poised to emerge as the dominant player, perhaps in partnership with Aerospatiale and Dassault of France.

JANET
BUSHGeorge pays
unfair price

It takes a long time to build up anti-inflation credibility and a dishearteningly short time to destroy it. Two years on, Eddie George is grimly counting the cost of signing up for the system of monthly meetings with published minutes, a halfway house he hoped would lead to full independence.

He no longer has the luxury of silence, which British central bankers have customarily enjoyed. His wordless jet-setting since last week's base rate cut has left a vacuum for speculation and been roundly criticised. He has been overruled by the Chancellor twice so far — probably three times counting last week — only serving to highlight that monetary policy remains in the hands of politicians, as ever. But it is worse to have one's advice turned down in public than in private.

The knife has been given an additional twist by the markets, which are now cheering each decision that Kenneth Clarke makes, whether or not the Governor agrees. Mr George has made one perceived misjudgment and has paid disproportionately.

There are two arguments in the Bank's defence. First, it has an absurdly narrow remit to base its advice solely on the likelihood of hitting the inflation target of 2.5 per cent or less in two years' time. Secondly, it has been less pessimistic about inflation than the majority of private economists. But none of this counts in Mr George's favour because the economics went against him. Making policy in public is a tough game.

Given the lags between rate moves and their effects, and given shortening odds on an early election, Mr George has very little chance to even up the score. Even if his cautious stance on rates turns out to have been right, the proof is not likely to come soon enough to bolster his position.

It seems unlikely that he can now claw his way back to something like equality with the current Chancellor. So the best chance for the Governor's rehabilitation may be with an incoming Labour Government, para-

attacks on sterling and therefore desperate for the conferred credibility that the Bank of England can offer.

It is no doubt true that Gordon Brown would have to tread a little more carefully than the master salesman Kenneth Clarke. Mr Clarke has a usefully combative style and at least has a chance to prove he has sound instincts. Mr Brown has no such brownie points and belongs to the Labour Party to boot, surely still anathema to City die-hards.

But the case for Mr George under Labour is actually not that strong. If they concern themselves with such details, Labour's strategists would have been happy to see the reaction of the sterling futures market to last week's base rate cut. Sterling futures, which offer the best guide to market expectations of interest rates, showed that even at the end of 1997, rates are expected to be no higher than 6.7 per cent, less than half a point higher than now.

Given that betting folk expect Labour to be in power by then, there is no scent of the market panic that has invariably greeted incoming Labour governments. If Labour has no need to be defensive, this leaves Mr George vulnerable.

Mr Brown has two conditions before any further power could be conceded to the Bank. The first is that the group of officials making rate decisions be broadened and de-personalised. That may suit Mr George. The second is that the Bank must be seen to have built up a good track record of advice. Mr George may feel less comfortable with that.

It is perceived public misjudgments have arguably put off the day when Labour might code power over monetary policy, even assuming it turns out to have been right, the proof is not likely to come soon enough to bolster his position.

It seems unlikely that he can now claw his way back to something like equality with the current Chancellor. So the best chance for the Governor's rehabilitation may be with an incoming Labour Government, para-

second in command.



MIDLAND

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	£25,000+	3.37	3.40
	£100,000+	3.56	3.60
	£250,000+	3.80	3.85
Premium Business Account	£5,000+	4.17	4.25
	£25,000+	4.65	4.75
	£100,000+	4.89	5.00
	£250,000+	5.13	5.25
Clients Premium Deposit Account	£25,000+	3.97	4.00
	£100,000+	4.46	4.50
Treasury Account	Up to £2,000	1.00	1.00
	£2,000+	1.49	1.50
	£10,000+	3.45	3.50

Gross: The rate before the deduction of income tax. CAR: Compounded Annual Rate, or the true Gross return taking into account the frequency of interest payments. All rates are quoted per annum. With effect from 18th January 1996 Base Rate was reduced by 0.25% to 6.25%.

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LAW

Roger Barry on the failures of a system that rates insurance cover above life



Death takes a back seat

Few people would consider a £200 fine appropriate for a driver who crashed into and killed two teenagers walking along a pavement. But that was the punishment, together with eight penalty points, for James Inglis after he drove into two army cadets in the West Yorkshire town of South Elmsall just before Christmas.

The penalty triggered public outrage, especially as the driver did not have insurance (for which he was fined £360). The fines were not exceptionally lenient — British courts routinely impose fines of £200 or less on drivers who kill on the road.

The case highlights the fundamental flaws in a legal system that allows almost all drivers who kill to escape full censure for the deaths they have caused. In February last year Inglis fell asleep at the wheel and swerved into a group of army cadets walking home. One, Gareth Horton, 14, died soon after the crash, and Gavin Parsons, 17, died a week later. A third cadet, thrown over a wall, suffered serious leg and arm injuries.

Inglis said he had been working a string of 12-hour shifts and that just before the crash he had driven with the demister on and the car window open to ward off drowsiness. He pleaded guilty to a charge of "driving without due care and attention".

Drivers responsible for deaths on the road usually face either this charge or the more serious "causing death by dangerous driving". The more serious charge carries a maximum of ten years' jail and a

driving ban, but under it the police and Crown Prosecution Service must prove that an offender's driving fell far below what could be expected from a competent and careful driver.

There are no fixed criteria for determining exactly what constitutes "competent and careful" driving or what falls far below it — an omission easily exploited by defence lawyers — so the more serious charge is rarely used.

Many drink-drivers responsible for a death are prosecuted under the more serious charge, so the penalties are higher. But most drivers who kill on the road are charged,

offences of varying degrees of seriousness, and deaths are not reflected in court records. But the total must run to thousands a year.

In 1988 the North Report on road traffic law considered whether there should be a new offence of "causing death by careless driving" to bridge the gaping divide between the two charges. It opposed a new charge, concluding that "it was wrong in principle to look at consequences, rather than culpability, as an ingredient of an offence" and that "carelessness might amount to no more than a minor error of judgment or a moment's inattention

as inevitable. Stricter law enforcement and tougher penalties would make motorists more accountable.

There should also be a review of the way road deaths are treated by the authorities; a system that considers a driver's failure to have car insurance to be more serious than the deaths of two people is patently immoral. Calls are growing for the introduction of a new charge — "motor manslaughter" or "causing death by driving" — which would strip away the current two-tier system and give equal weight in law to all road deaths resulting from negligent or bad driving.

● RoadPeace can be contacted at 0181-964 1021 or PO Box 2579, London NW10 3PW.

BRITAIN'S ROAD TOLL	
● Deaths on British roads in 1994 (based on most recent figures): 3,650.	
● Drivers charged in the Crown Courts of England and Wales with "causing death by dangerous driving": 338.	
● Number of convictions on this charge: 234	

with "careless driving". Magistrates say that, under this charge, they cannot take account of any fatality and must look only at the driving error itself; ie, a motorist who kills an innocent party through negligent driving can be sentenced for that driving only, and not for the death that results from it. The magistrates maintain that the death is a disproportionately tragic consequence of a small driving error.

There are no figures to show how many drivers involved in fatal collisions are charged with "careless driving", which covers a multitude of driving

tion, and the offence should not be made more serious because a death resulted.

The maximum sentence for "careless driving" is a £250 fine and a driving ban. However, fines imposed on drivers who have killed hardly ever exceed 10 per cent of this maximum.

The authorities would have us believe that all but about 300 of the thousands of road deaths a year result from minor errors of judgment. Speeding, the most common offence committed in Britain, illustrates the absurdity of this. Though excessive speed accounts for more than 1,200

deaths a year, courts usually require additional evidence of exceptionally bad driving for the charge of "causing death by dangerous driving" to be brought against a driver who has killed through speed.

But speeding involves a wilful disregard of the law; and 70 per cent of drivers routinely exceed the 30mph limit in urban areas. Yet the likelihood of the police prosecuting a motorist for driving 10 mph over the limit in an urban area is slim. The prospect of such a driver being charged with "causing death by dangerous driving" after a fatal crash is virtually nil.

The criteria used to determine "competent and careful" driving seem therefore to have shifted because of the large number of offending motorists; and the unacceptable becomes accepted. Drink-driving would not be considered "safe" just because most motorists were guilty of it. But that is what has happened with speeding.

RoadPeace, the national charity that campaigns for safer roads and offers support to crash victims, argues that tougher laws and police action against drink-drivers are proof that such measures can reduce danger. Deaths caused by drink-driving have more than halved over the past ten years. Yet six in every seven road deaths are caused by irresponsible sober drivers.

Campaigners say that these offenders should now also be the focus of concerted government action. The authorities must stop regarding the annual toll of more than 3,000 dead and injured on the roads

while those with a poor record could see their indemnity cover costs soar by up to 200 per cent.

Paul Venton, chairman of the society's standards and guidance committee, says the changes would produce a fairer system for dealing with the cost of negligence.

Lunch break

The business lunch still flourishes among lawyers, according to a survey by the Athenaeum Hotel, but they are more abstemious and time-sensitive than a decade ago. The "typical" lawyer has a business lunch at least once a fortnight, and 27 per cent at least twice a week. On average, one guest is entertained and £20 to £30 spent.

Lawyers spend half the time talking business and lunch less often than accountants or advertising executives do.

● The good ones could receive a discount of up to 20 per cent.

SCRIVENOR

Quibbling about a QC

ALL THE to-ings and fro-ings at the Law Society over which silk to brief on the legality of its conveyancing proposals have caused discontent among some Law Society council members.

Martin Mears, the president, and Robert Sayer insisted on "meeting" counsel before instructing them to get "some idea of the person with whom we were placing the future of the profession".

But one Law Society source said: "It looked as if we were hawking our briefs around the Temple so as to get the 'right' opinion." Whatever the truth, David Pannick, QC, without committing himself, was nonetheless instructed. Kenneth Parker, QC, was not, the instructions going instead to David Vaughan, QC.

INNS AND OUTS

Mr Mears is already half-way through his term of office. He has promised to stand for re-election — but will he be challenged? It is being said that the current deputy vice-president, Tony Gilling, may come forward.

● THE CPS has just unveiled a corporate tie which, it says proudly, has been chosen by staff and displays an "all-over traditional paisley design". There are no immediate plans, the service admits, to bring out a piece of female attire — such as an all-over traditional paisley-designed scarf.

Fair do

SIX THOUSAND law firms with a good record on negli-



David Vaughan: instructed

gence claims could benefit from the Law Society's proposals to link solicitors' premiums to what they cost the profession's indemnity fund. The good ones could receive a discount of up to 20 per cent.

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- BULLETPROOF? 33
- LAW REPORT 19

Can a President be legally immune?

Bill Clinton could have hoped for better timing. As the 1996 election year unfolds, he finds himself defending sexual harassment charges over an alleged incident which occurred before he took office.

The lawsuit, brought by Paula Corbin Jones, had been lost in the shuffle until a St Louis Federal Appeals Court held on January 9 that the President is not immune from suit for his unofficial acts, and that the action should proceed. The Supreme Court had previously held in another case, *Nixon v Fitzgerald*, that the President is absolutely immune from civil liability for his official acts "as a functionally mandated incident of the President's unique office, rooted in the constitutional tradition of separation of powers and supported by our history". The appeals court rejected arguments by the President's lawyers that presidential immunity required that the suit be stayed until Mr Clinton left office.

The Jones case would be largely without public interest but for the celebrity of Mr Clinton and the sensational nature of the allegations. At the same time, the legal issues in the case are obscured by the realpolitik — whether the judicial process will work fast enough for the case to be tried before the presidential election.

The facts are these: the state agency where Ms Jones was employed sponsored a Governor's Quality Management conference at the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock. Mr Clinton, then Governor of Arkansas, addressed the Conference. Ms Jones's story is that at about 2.30pm that day an Arkansas state trooper asked her to visit Clinton in his "business suite" at the Excelsior. She claims she went, hoping for an enhanced employment opportunity. In the hotel room, she alleges, she met Clinton who made sexual advances towards her which she resisted. As a result of this 15-minute encounter, she claims that she lost employment opportunities with the State of Arkansas and is entitled to \$750,000 (£497,000) in compensatory and punitive damages.

Ms Jones's suit was filed just as the three-year statute of limitations was about to expire. The President has categorically denied all particulars of the incident. The core legal issue is whether Ms Jones is entitled to immediate discovery and trial or whether the action should be stayed until Mr Clinton leaves office. The President's lawyer, Robert Bennett, whose bills have left Mr Clinton "close to bankruptcy", argued successfully in the lower court that Mr Clinton enjoys a temporary immunity from suit, contending that there is a tremendous unfairness in distracting the President over even a plausible allegation

relating to conduct which is claimed to have occurred before he took office.

Mr Bennett's argument is, of course, exaggerated. Mr Clinton is not being asked to spend 365 days a year testifying. Moreover, no legal precedent exists to support Mr Bennett's position. While the Constitution is silent on the point, the Supreme Court has held that the President has absolute immunity from civil liability for his official decisions, but has never passed on the issue of whether the President has immunity for private conduct. The Constitution expressly grants immunity to members of Congress while on the floor or going and coming therefrom. But Mr Bennett argues for an even broader implied immunity for the President.

No previous President has ever claimed an immunity for unofficial conduct. Were such an immunity to be recognised, it would follow, for example, that the President might avoid debts incurred before taking office or liability for personal injury inflicted before taking office. If a president is too busy with the problems of state to testify at a deposition or defend himself from civil suits, how can he justify taking holidays, attendance at musical events or jogging? Does the President's immunity extend to his spouse as well? Does Mr Bennett contend that Mrs Clinton is as immune as the President? Mrs Clinton is also busy tending to the problems of the nation. And does immunity cover the White House staff? Does it cover criminal as well as civil wrongdoing, including acts occurring before he took office?

And what of Ms Jones's case against Trooper Ferguson, Mr Clinton's co-defendant, who allegedly set up the encounter. Is that case to be stayed as well? Does presidential immunity also extend to the President's former bodyguards? The appeals court held it did not.

The court may, understandably, wish to spare the nation the lurid spectacle of discovery and trial in a sensational case against a sitting President; but Ms Jones, lest we forget, has a constitutional right to her timely day in court. Though Mr Bennett dismissed Ms Jones and her story as "tabloid trash", justice is supposed to be blind to the status of the plaintiff as well as the defendant, and all are supposed to be equal under the law. Courts often stay actions for periods of time, pending some future happening which may dispose of the entire controversy; it is this legal manoeuvring that takes time. However unjust the result, it seems highly unlikely that the case of Paula Corbin Jones against William Jefferson Clinton will be tried before the November election.

● The author is a partner in Brown & Wood, a New York law firm.



JAMES D. ZIRIN

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CONSTRUCTION To £38,000
Leading City firm with burgeoning reputation in this area seeks 1-3 year qualified lawyer for a broad ranging role including High Court litigation and arbitration. Ideally from top construction practice and seeking greater responsibility and prospects. Civil engineering background is highly desirable. Ref: T15087

PROPERTY To £60,000
Top 3 property practice currently booming with an exciting array of instructions seeks further top quality assistants between 1 and 6 years' qualified. High profile and highly varied workload. You must have strong technical skills with the commercial acumen to be a future partner. Ref: T15493

EUROPE BASED SOLE LAWYER To £Excellent
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INTERNATIONAL M&A LAWYER To £Excellent
You must have at least one other European language with some US exposure and not less than 4 years' M&A and joint venture experience on a consistently international basis. Will look at European and US qualified lawyers. You will come in as a senior legal adviser taking on a broad range of transactions. Lots of travel. Must be lively with a good sense of humour. Excellent package. Ref: T25941

PROPERTY FINANCE To £45,000
Leading City firm experiencing exponential growth of late, seeks 2-4 year qualified lawyer with strong property finance background or alternatively commercial property experience seeking to enter the area. Strong technical skills a prerequisite as are good team playing skills. Ref: T24528

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact June Mesrié, Greg Abrahams or Seamus Hoar (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-340 7078 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JL. Confidential fax 0171-631 6394.

SENIOR IN-HOUSE FINANCE To £Competitive
An extremely prestigious international investment management company seeks a senior lawyer with at least 7 years' experience (ideally in their 30's or 40's) to undertake a broad ranging and international role spanning corporate, banking and tax issues. A good financial background is a distinct advantage. Must be a thriving commercial personality. Ref: T25964

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION £ Outstanding
An exciting and unusual opportunity for a 6 months-2 years' ppe barrister or solicitor to join this leading US international law firm's office in Paris where you will become involved in the international arbitration litigation practice. Fluency in French is essential and it is desirable that you will have a knowledge of French law. Ref: T26032

VARIOUS SHIPPING To £100,000
Young, dynamic and innovative shipping practice now seeks senior solicitors both at partner and assistant level either individually or as a team to relocate out of their existing firms into a more flexible and rewarding environment which this firm believes it can offer. Outstanding opportunities. Ref: T24491

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION To £60,000
One of the City's leading litigation practices seeks further litigators of 3-5 years' ppe. The work will be extremely wide ranging including general contractual disputes and media related litigation. The firm encourages early partnership and has a strong entrepreneurial ethos. Ref: T15532

IN-HOUSE CO/CO To £65,000+
Leading international IT corporate seeks corporate/commercial specialist in their mid-30s with extensive in-house experience or from top City firm. International experience vital in role involving much commercial work, M&A and joint ventures. Own portfolio of matters with much autonomy. Must be bilingual in European language. Ref: T23167

IP/IT To £36,000
Top five City practices now seeks a 2-3 years' ppe (TTP) solicitor to do a mix of commercialisation-commercial work including IP work in all its forms, computer and hi-tech matters and issues with technological or scientific content. You will have a first class academic background and be eager to assume a front-line, demanding role. Ref: T16039

MAJOR US PRACTICE To £55,000
This is an outstanding opportunity to join the London office of one of the US's leading commercial practices. With between 3-5 years' ppe in banking law from a leading City firm and with experience in funds, general capital markets and regulatory work, you will be eligible to join a department that encourages autonomy, initiative and flair. Ref: T16595



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- Legal management of ongoing relationships with franchisees
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- Anti-piracy investigation and enforcement, settlement agreements and co-ordination with local anti-piracy authorities
- UK and EU competition law.

Candidates should be solicitors/barristers with 3 - 5 years relevant experience. You should have excellent drafting skills. You should be able to communicate with all levels of management, understand commercial realities and be able to prioritise a hectic workload. Foreign languages and international experience would be an advantage.



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Reporting to the Divisional Managing Director, the ideal candidate would be a graduate qualified Lawyer with large Company experience or a sound grounding in commercial law gained with a leading firm. Experience of legal practices in continental Europe would be beneficial. Knowledge of German and of the transport/shipping sector would be an advantage. Initiative and common sense are essential, as is the ability to communicate persuasively at senior management level.

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مكتبة الامم

The bulletproof barristers

Advocates cannot be sued over work for the courts.

Gary Slapper explains how this might change

If an electrician, a decorator, a surgeon or a security guard acts negligently in the course of his work, he may be sued for damages. The potential liability applies to anyone exercising an occupational skill, and sometimes the cost of a negligent mistake can be enormous. Last December the High Court made a £65 million award against partners in a firm of accountants after the firm negligently prepared a company audit that was relied on by a purchaser. Nonetheless, if a lawyer acting as an advocate ruins a case through sheer carelessness, then, however dire the evidence against the lawyer, barristers and solicitor-advocates are protected by a special immunity from being sued for catastrophic court work, and work "intimately connected" with courtroom performance. This week the Court of Appeal will hear the first of two cases that challenge the protection of advocates.

There is a further rule that sometimes makes it unnecessary for a lawyer even to invoke the immunity principle. If he or she is accused of ruining a criminal defence by a (convicted) client, there is a rule that requires an action for negligence to be struck out as an "abuse of the process of the court" if it involves a "collateral attack" on another competent court.

In other words, one cannot get a civil court to reopen a criminal trial by claiming that the conviction resulted from a lawyer's negligence. To do so might bring the system into disrepute by accommodating criminal and civil cases with conflicting decisions in relation to the same incident. In one case, a judge commented that though the rule against such "re-litigation" is a hardship to the victim of the lawyer's negligence, and an undesired and undesirable bonus by way of protection to a negligent lawyer, it is a "price which must be paid in the interests of certainty and finality, which are themselves necessary components in the proper administration of justice".



This week's appeal centres on the abuse-of-process rule. It concerns a Chris Smith, who was convicted of aggravated burglary in 1984 and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. In 1990, after serving his sentence, he sued Linsdells, the firm of solicitors that acted for him in the trial, claiming damages for negligent handling of the case. He sought compensation for loss of liberty, of opportunity to earn a living during his period of imprisonment, and for loss of reputation. The judges will have to decide if such a case should be struck out as an abuse of process, and they will, no doubt, authoritatively define the limits of the public policy against having criminal convictions impugned in related civil proceedings. The advocates' immunity from negligence actions goes back 200 years. Its scope has been narrowed over the years but there was

confirmation of it by the House of Lords in 1969 in the case *Rondel v Worsley*. This held that barristers cannot be sued by their clients for negligent performance in court or for work preparatory to court work. In 1980 the immunity was also extended to solicitors who act as advocates.

Now that more solicitors are qualifying as advocates (about 300 have higher rights of audience), the point has a wider significance. The immunity is usually justified on the ground that advocacy could not be executed to the desired standards if its practitioners were always worried about being sued for negligence.

There are also public policy considerations. In 1980, Lord Wilberforce said that the immunity should stand mainly on the ground

that "a barrister owes a duty to the court as well as to his client and should not be inhibited, through fear of an action by his client, from performing it". He also cited "the undesirability of re-litigation, as between barrister and client, of what was litigated between the client and his opponent".

Other points in defence of the immunity have been advanced. It has been said, for example, that the "cab-rank rule" (by which barristers are obliged to take the next case irrespective of its desirability in their opinion) would be difficult to apply properly if barristers had to take on clients who could pursue actions against them. The rule has been a hallowed part of legal doctrine. Tom Paine, the radical writer, once said that if ever an advocate could capriciously choose whether to "stand between the Crown and the subject arraigned",

then, "from that moment the liberties of England are at an end".

But it could be argued that rules, protective as they are to barristers, have been contrived by judges — mostly senior barristers who have spent their working lives in that profession — who have a particular sympathy for the work, worries and economic interests of advocates. Surgeons and plumbers do not make the law on the circumstances in which they can and cannot be sued.

Whether barristers would be influenced to do their work differently by the thought that they might be sued for negligence must be in doubt. And is the reopening of a case necessarily a bad thing if someone has been wrongly imprisoned because of a lawyer's negligence? Nor is there much prospect of a wave of "re-litigation" in view of the other barriers facing a potential litigant. Advocates are liable only for negligence, not errors of judgment. So abolishing the immunity rule would not entitle litigants to sue their barristers successfully for any error in the handling of the case.

It would have to be the sort of mistake that no reasonably competent advocate would have made in the circumstances.

In a leading House of Lords case from 1981, the court accepted the striking-out of a civil action in circumstances where they perceived the real object of the action as the release of the Birmingham Six rather than the recovery of monetary damages. Where a dissatisfied client has already been released when he sues, and where there is "fresh evidence", the position may be less clear.

In a case to be heard later this year, the Court of Appeal will have to reconsider the limits to a barrister's immunity from suit. A man who served 28 months of a four-year sentence for drug trafficking is protesting his innocence, and is suing his barrister for negligent presentation of his defence.

The immunity rule, if not the procedural rule, is now widely seen as anachronistic. Last year the Consumers' Association called for the immunity to be scrapped in line with a tenet well respected in legal circles, that there should be "no wrong without a remedy". But for how much longer can the law lead special circumstances and maintain immunity against change?

Dr Slapper is Principal Lecturer in Law at Staffordshire University.

Does anybody love lawyers?

The solicitors' organisation set up to handle clients' complaints is not satisfying the public, a survey finds

High levels of dissatisfaction with the way in which the solicitors' profession handles complaints by the public are at the heart of a survey just published by the Law Society. In a sample of 2,246 complaints to the Solicitors Complaints Bureau, the society found 67 per cent were unhappy with the outcomes.

Almost half thought the bureau was "heavily influenced" in favour of solicitors and the legal profession.

People who were told by the bureau they did not have a valid complaint, or that their case was closed and that the bureau could not take the matter any further, were particularly dissatisfied.

The survey, by the Law Society's own research and policy planning unit, is the most comprehensive to date on complaints-handling and will be crucial to the current debate on how the bureau should be reformed.

Based in Leamington Spa, the bureau costs the solicitors' profession in England and Wales £9 million a year and has been the butt of criticism both from solicitors, who claim that it is costly and over-interventionist, and the public, who feel it is biased and ineffective.

The highest proportion of complaints was over conveyancing and divorce or family work, although some were generated by personal injury work. The most frequent complaints were excessive delay (more than 50 per cent), failure to respond to phone calls or letters and failure to follow instructions.

The next biggest category of complaint concerned excessive charges; almost a third complained about them.

Clients had high expectations of how their solicitor would deal with the complaint and two thirds thought their lawyer would take it seriously and put matters right. But most thought

their solicitor's response fell short of what they expected.

Almost half considered their solicitor no help at all. Some of the sample had been referred by the bureau back to the solicitor to be dealt with by the firm's own complaints procedures; mostly, those were more satisfied than those who went to the bureau.

The Law Society research unit concludes that people want simpler, faster procedures, more communication with bureau staff to clarify the complaint and to get feedback about the solicitor's response, and continuity of staff dealing with the complaint. They want staff to give equal consideration to both sides of the story, to monitor progress and report on it to them, and to have more powers to require action from solicitors.

Martin Mears, the Law Society president, said: "The survey... emphasises the need for all solicitors to take their clients' complaints seriously."

The National Consumer Council welcomed the survey and said that "tough remedies" were needed.

Ruth Evans, council director, said: "The results come as no surprise... They confirm our analysis of the bureau, published in 1994, which showed poor communication, failure to respond to inquiries, intolerable delays, lack of thoroughness in investigating complaints and failure to explain adequately the reasons for decisions."

Michael Barnes, Legal Services Ombudsman, said the survey painted a "bleak picture". He said that 60 to 70 per cent of the 20,000 complaints it received each year were resolved without the need for formal investigation, but the research showed that two thirds were dissatisfied with the outcome.

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Corporate Department at rapidly expanding medium sized City firm seeks further partner with established connections in the corporate sector and the ability to cross and expand. The position will be a dynamic practitioner with experience of high profile acquisitions and disposals, joint ventures and restructurings. Her role will be to ensure the firm's continued growth and to ensure a high degree of responsibility for client development and departmental management. (Ref:5239)

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CAPITAL MARKETS

This London office of a US firm with a strong international presence seeks an ambitious and highly able senior capital markets lawyer. The ideal level is 5-8 years qualified and the successful candidate will play a lead role in developing the department and ensuring the highest standards of service. (Ref:5356)

CONSTRUCTION MIX

A genuine "top" entry at this top tier City firm for a 3-5 year qualified construction lawyer. The work is varied and candidates with either a contentious or a non-contentious background will be considered. The practice is both domestic and international with considerable overlap with project finance. Ambition and drive are crucial. (Ref:3453)

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For further information in complete confidence on these and the many other vacancies currently registered with us, please contact Yasmin Phillips, Lisa Hicks or Andrew Russell (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-377 0510 (0171-376 4968 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail yasmin@zmb.co.uk

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City office of national practice seeks further property partner for potential head of department role. The successful candidate will be at least 35 with a proven track record in managing high value work from blue chip clients. Good practice management skills are a pre-requisite as you will be taking responsibility for a sizeable, highly motivated department. Highly attractive partnership package. (Ref:5391)

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PROPERTY - BRISTOL

First rate Bristol firm seeks bright commercial property lawyer, ideally City trained. The preferred level is 1-3 years qualified and a minimum 2:1 at degree level is required. He/she will take on a varied and challenging workload including acquisitions and disposals, development, lease and landlord & tenant. The ability to assume immediate responsibility is essential. (Ref:4779)

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Long established niche City practice with pre-eminent reputation for its cross and private client practice seeks additional solicitor for its busy Commercial Property Department. The firm will consider exceptional newly qualified lawyers as well as solicitors with up to three years' relevant experience. Planning experience is particularly advantageous. (Ref:5203)

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Long established niche City practice with pre-eminent reputation for its cross and private client practice seeks additional solicitor for its busy Commercial Property Department. The firm will consider exceptional newly qualified lawyers as well as solicitors with up to three years' relevant experience. Planning experience is particularly advantageous. (Ref:5203)

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Partnership Moves

A candidate in line for partnership with his own firm was placed in a quandary when offered a partnership with another firm of equal status. Should he accept it, or would it be sensible to wait and see what his own firm offered him? He knew he had the backing of the partners in his department. They had told him his chances were excellent and that he should hang on for the next few months until the appointments were made. There were no guarantees, of course, and he had been passed over in the preceding round. But it meant a lot to him to become a partner in this firm, and the temptation to wait for it triumphed. Unfortunately, when the time came he was passed over yet again — his backers had been outvoted — and he regretted turning down the other offer.

Being objective about the options open to us is never easy. Our long-standing ambitions will give the goals we set ourselves special importance in our eyes. This is natural, instinctive: we get locked into our objectives, and achieving them becomes almost a need. This enables us to invest great energy into our daily routines. It also distorts our vision. Alternative goals lack the same appeal we prefer to continue on our present course, and the more difficult it becomes, the greater the desire to succeed.

There are good reasons to value a partnership within one's existing firm: you know them, and they know you. But it is easy to over-value it, and to ignore the attractions of a partnership elsewhere. Discussing the issue with people outside your firm is always helpful.

Michael Chambers

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Sonya Rayner

Commercial Lawyers: London

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Contracts Lawyers: West London

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PRACTICE

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Construction: West End

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Commercial Property: West End

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The above represents a small proportion of our recent instructions. For more information, in strictest confidence on these or other career opportunities please feel free to contact Hugh Kelly or Mark Field on 0171 588 7878 (0171 226 9398 weekends) or write to them at Kellyfield Consulting, Second Floor, Moor House, 119 London Wall, London EC2Y 5EL. Confidential fax 0171 588 7020.

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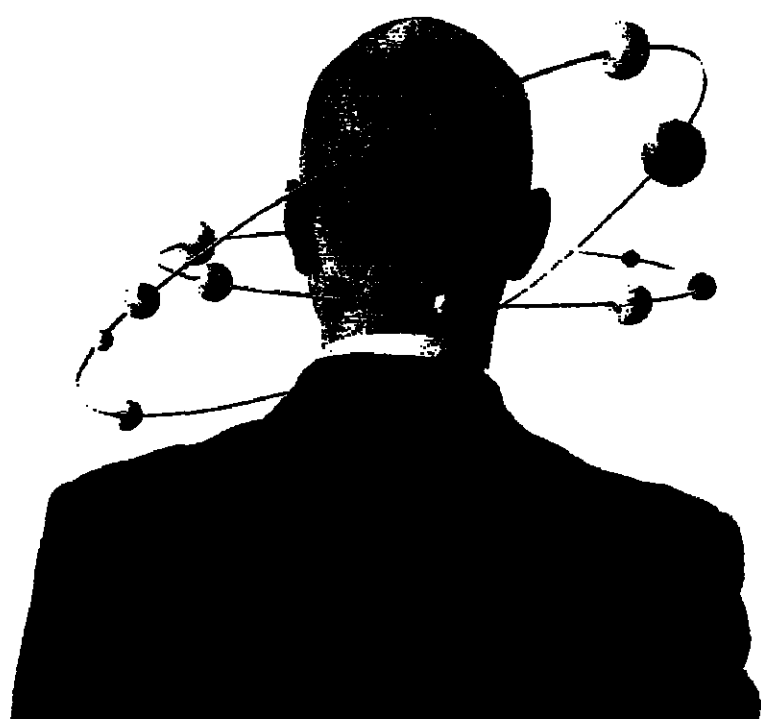
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The Times, 25 July 1995

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THEATRE

Willis Hall recalls the genesis of a classic anti-war play, now being restaged



DANCE

It cost half a million, but the lighting's still grim: the Royal Ballet revives *Beauty*

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 1

Dawn Upshaw resuscitates the songs of Charles Ives as part of the BBC's festival



MUSIC 2

...and Schubert's Lieder are sung with rare intensity by Wolfgang Holzmair at the Wigmore Hall

Last year he was at death's door; now life is full of revivals for a veteran playwright. **Benedict Nightingale reports**

The long and the short of Willis Hall

A few months ago, Willis Hall's wife was told to expect the worst. The dramatist was in intensive care after an operation on his burst stomach. There were 18 tubes protruding from his body and all his breathing was being done by a machine. But it was not a ghost I met in his native Leeds the other day. Had I asked him to, this trim, spry 66-year-old could probably have produced an egg from his ear or sawn the waitress in half. A little-known fact about Hall is that he is a member of every Magic Circle from here to America to Malta, where he has a flat.

A better-known fact is that, before he started collaborating with Keith Waterhouse or writing his own children's novels or penning columns for a Leeds paper or doing the hundred-and-one things that fill his mornings now, he wrote *The Long and the Short and the Tall*. Back in 1959 the play made his name and that of Peter O'Toole. It has been on the schools syllabus for years and, opening to-morrow, receives an overdue revival.

Small world, Leeds. Small world, the world. Hall was born in a section of the city called Hunslet, 100 yards from the O'Toole family and 400 from the Waterhouse home. His and O'Toole's parents were drinking together, despite a difference in status: "We lived in a working-class house that had a scullery, while they just had a living room downstairs". He and Waterhouse belonged to the same youth clubs and enthusiastically chased skirt together.

Hall left school at 14, but did not follow his father into the engineering factory. Wearing a trilby and a belted raincoat, he made a few pence from a local paper reporting the names of mourners at funerals and revellers at weddings, then had an unsuccessful stint as a trawlerman sailing out of Hull, then signed on as a professional soldier. That took him to Malaya, where he seems to have spent as much time writing plays for the Chinese schools department of the local radio station as toiling as a Signals corporal.

Seven years after joining up he was back in England, "and the first thing I saw from the troopship was this strange array of television aerials everywhere". But radio was still his main medium, and he wrote play after play, also finding time to direct an obscure actor called John Duxbury in a production of Anouilh's *Antigone* at Nottingham YWCA. He was a pretty experienced dramatist by the time Peter Devis asked him to write a theatre piece for the company of eight male

6 Hall writes from 7am to lunchtime, 365 days a year

undergraduates he was taking from Oxford to the 1958 Edinburgh Festival. That remit, plus an Edinburgh hall where exits and entrances meant awkward clambering through the audience, got him thinking: the Army, Malaya, the Japanese invasion, a British patrol trapped in the jungle. The result was a play at first called *Disciplines of War* and later, and less happily, *The Long and the Short and the Tall*. Hall agrees that it is less "a savage indictment of the senselessness of war", as the Penguin edition claims, than a study of the morality of killing. The regular sergeant who does not flinch from deciding whether a prisoner should live or die, he says, is the real hero. The play was admired by Kenneth Tynan and snapped up by the high-flying Royal Court, which cast Albert Finney as the cockney mischief-maker, Bamforth. But a week into rehearsals Finney got appendicitis — and the unknown O'Toole replaced him. He never missed a performance, much to the disappointment of his understudy, one Michael Caine.

That was surprising. Hall is still able to continue his practice of writing from 7am to lunchtime 365 days a year, thanks both to the doctors who snatched him from the jaws of death and, he says, to his local branch of Tesco's. "When I was convalescing I got my son to drive me there, and for an hour I walked up and down the aisles. There was a nice even temperature and no fear of tripping up. It made the staff curious, but it did me the world of good."

Meanwhile, he is waiting expectantly for the buzz that seeing *The Long and the Short and the Tall* has always given him. Indeed, this time the buzz may be greater than usual, for the soldiers will at last be talking as soldiers talk, not as the Lord Chamberlain decreed they talk back in 1959. "Crumb's" will go. A rude song or two will be added, along with the odd Saxon curse.

Who knows, Kevin Dignam's Bamforth may even utter the word that nearly wrecked the play when O'Toole used it in 1959. One of the censor's spies was policing the production that night, and the Court was warned that, if ever it was heard again, the production would be closed. And what was this destroyer of decency, this verbal A-bomb? "Fillock."

● *The Long and the Short and the Tall* opens tomorrow at the Bristol Shaw Theatre, Bristol Hill, London SW2 (071-744 6470)



"When I was convalescing [from major surgery] I got my son to drive me to Tesco's, and for an hour I walked up and down the aisles," Willis Hall says

CONCERTS: Schubert song; the Ives celebration; and a fine guitarist

Drama in his voice

Holzmair/Wyss Wigmore Hall

THE Wigmore Hall has shuddered more than once this month to the strains of Schubert's little horror story *Der Zwerg*, about the dwarf who murders his queen on that dreadfully calm sea. On Friday, though, for the first time, the palms of my hands were convincingly cold and clammy by the end of the song.

Wolfgang Holzmair's ability to compel an audience's interest beyond the singer's persona and into the world of the song grows steadily. It is six years since he first appeared at the Wigmore Hall, and in that time both his light, lyrical baritone and his interpretative insight have sharpened in focus. Like the great tenor Peter Schreier, he makes graphic use of hand gestures in what often seems like a heightened poetry reading.

For *Der Zwerg*, a distant half-voice, high in the head, set the scene of that luminous dusk at sea. The voices of queen and dwarf leapt out all the more startlingly into the foreground, with Schubert's rhythms blade-sharp and the dwarf's name slashed out. This is Schubert — and

Tribute to an enigma

Ives Festival Barbican

THERE is a nice irony in the fact that Charles Ives, who deplored the invention of radio, should have had his work so comprehensively celebrated last weekend by a broadcasting corporation. A mini-festival such as the BBC's *The Unanswered Question* could not, American listeners told me, have happened in Ives's own country.

It came to a triumphant, if suitably enigmatic, conclusion on Sunday with a song recital by Dawn Upshaw and Thomas Hampson, followed by a BBC Symphony Orchestra concert including the Symphonies Nos 2 and 4.

Ives's songs encompass nostalgic romanticism, atmospheric impressionism, outdoor marching songs and iconoclastic gestures of all kinds. Upshaw and Hampson, with the advantage of native accents and a hint of lowbrow crooning, were perfectly in tune with the idiom, and with Craig Rutenberg, a fully involved pianist, the controlled anarchy of *Canon* and *Charlie Rutledge* was graphically projected.

The evening concert began with bracing performances under Stephen Jackson of the

Three Harvest Home Chorales for chorus, organ and brass. As in *General William Booth Enters into Heaven*, heard later in the programme (Peter Coleman-Wright the admirable soloist), there is a transcendental quality to this music that demands it be taken seriously.

The same is surely true of the famous discord that ends the Second Symphony. Calum MacDonald argued in his excellent programme notes that the effect is angry as well as humorous, and so it seems to me — although the conductor Andrew Davis seems not to endorse this view. The dissonance was briefly touched on, thus drawing the sting.

But, with the exception of the exhilarating run-up to the final chord, this was a curiously polite, low-key reading altogether. It cried out for an injection of Mahlerian schmaltz in the Adagio, for a more unbuttoned delivery of all those vernacular patriotic songs and fiddling tunes.

A liberating sense of danger and meticulous preparation went hand in hand in the Fourth Symphony, however. A fantastically complex web of pre-existing tunes makes the textures of the second movement some of the densest ever composed, yet the achievement of this performance was that the chaos never seemed gratuitous or a puerile joke.

If there was "comedy" at all, it was black comedy. An apocalyptic quality was a forceful reminder that this was the work of a visionary, writing during the turbulent years preceding the First World War.

BARRY MILLINGTON

DANCE: Royal Ballet steps out to recoup a half-million-pound investment

In need of a lighter touch

The Royal Ballet is certainly getting good mileage out of its new production of *The Sleeping Beauty*. It opened the 1994-95 season at Covent Garden, and here it is back again in the 1995-96 season for a further 15 performances. Like it or loathe it, we are going to be seeing rather a lot of it.

Tonight on part two of the BBC2 documentary *The House* you will see why: because the production carried a £500,000 price tag, thanks to Maria Bjornson's elaborate designs, it will take years to recoup the cost. Maybe by the time it has paid for itself we will have grown accustomed to its huge, distorted face.

When the curtain rose on Saturday night it was immediately apparent that the production's greatest flaw — its appalling lighting — remains intact. The hostile glare not only makes the sets and costumes look hideous, it also leaves some of the dancers in dark shadow at the very moment when one is expecting to see their every step. This was particularly annoying in the case of the Fairies variations in the Prologue, where dancers of outstanding quality — Nicola Roberts and Deborah Bull among them — were badly served by the lighting designer, Pat Collins.

Viviana Durante didn't seem to need artificial lighting, so radiant was her Aurora. Durante came down Bjorn-

Sleeping Beauty Covent Garden

son's formidable staircase and launched into Aurora's demanding solo as if no hurdles were going to stand in her way. The confidence of her dancing was exhilarating to watch. She took the Rose Adagio at a crawl (with Paul Connelly obliging in the pit) and pulled off the most gloriously self-indulgent balances, even delaying the final triumphant flourish as if determined to enjoy every second of a gruelling challenge. And it was not all technical bravado, either: the sheer beauty that was invested in the detail of her dancing was astonishing.

Durante's Princess was happy and charming, flirting with her cavaliers but listening to father with daughterly respect. No wonder she captivated Bruce Sansom's ardent Prince Florimund.

It was a good night for the rest of the cast, too. Benazir Hussein has really grown in the role of the Lilac Fairy. She still lacks strength for the big slow turns but she savours her balances most attractively. Belinda Hatley, Roberts and Sarah Wildor were a superlative Silver, Sapphire and Diamond in Act III. And Monica Mason, as the wicked witch Carabosse, had a great time spoiling everyone else's party.

DEBRA CRAINE



Viviana Durante: she was radiant as Aurora, and the confidence of her dancing was exhilarating to watch

Spanish in parts

SCO/Serebrier Queen's Hall, Edinburgh

THE MOST eloquent expression of Spanish idiom in Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* is in the slow movement. Attractive though the dance rhythms of the outer movements are, it is only in the vocally inspired central adagio, where every note in the decorative improvisation of the solo guitar has its significance, that Rodrigo penetrates the picture-postcard surface to the emotional reality behind it. It was here, in a spontaneously intimate display of *duende*, that Sharon Isbin, the soloist in this performance, was most persuasive.

Isbin is not Spanish but American. So there was no reason why, with authentic encouragement, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra should not have given equally idiomatic performances of Turina's *La Oración del Torero* and Falla's *El Amor Brujo*. Though he is not Spanish either, conductor José Serebrier is a musician with many of the right qualifications for a programme of this kind. The problem was in his stick technique, which seemed

GERALD LARNER

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■ VISUAL ART 1

Czech artist Jana Sterbak comes to the Serpentine with a sour show of installations



■ VISUAL ART 2

... while at the Liverpool Tate, Susan Hiller assembles a compelling homage to heroism

THE TIMES ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3

Alfred Helberger's troubled life and work is revealed in a first British retrospective



■ VISUAL ART 4

... and, also in London, the mysterious wood sculptures of Katsura Funakoshi go on display

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork finds two women's views of death are both shocking and stirring; plus other shows

Haunted by imitations of mortality

Few of the artists in *Rites of Passage*, the elegiac exhibition held at the Tate last summer, let us escape the prospect of death. Jana Sterbak, Prague-born but living now in Montreal, presented mortality in all its rawness with her most notorious work: *Vanitas*. *Flesh Dress for an Albino Anorectic*. True to her provocative title, Sterbak clothed a metallic tailor's dummy in a dress made from fast-withering slices of flank steak. No image of bodily decay could have been more carnal and brutally direct.

Now Sterbak has returned, with a mini-retrospective at the Serpentine Gallery. But the willingness to shock is confined, this time, to a work at the far end of the final room. From a distance, *Seduction Couch* looks alluring enough. To anyone versed in European painting it recalls the chaise longue where Madame Recamier reclines in David's great portrait. But the nearer we approach, the more disconcerting the couch becomes. No smiling society woman in neoclassical robes occupies its curving surface. The couch is empty, and Sterbak's decision to construct it from perforated steel abolishes the notion of comfort.

A powerful spotlight beams on to it, casting a cage-like pattern on the wall behind. The electrostatic energy pulsing through the work gives out a regular crack, and anyone who ignores its warning and touches the couch will receive a sharp shock — harmless, no doubt, but enough to obliterate all thought of the pleasures of the flesh.

Knowing that Sterbak spent her first 13 years in Czechoslovakia, before her family emigrated to Canada in 1968, we may be tempted to wonder if this disrupted life has affected the art she produces. The Soviet invasion of her native country prompted the move, and the tyranny of a Communist regime would have given Sterbak an unforgettable insight into the fragility of human life. But she has lived sufficiently long in Canada to know the shortcomings of capitalism, too. The cynicism souring her work shows that she has no faith in systems, and every expectation that individual liberty is threatened by rules on every side.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the Serpentine's first room. A man on a video screen tries to read out all 17 articles of *The Declaration of the Rights of Man*, the cornerstone of the French Revolution. He soon begins to stammer, and his struggle to enunciate words as important as "power" or "citizen" gradually militates against the text's conviction. By the end of his performance, the effort involved has become excruciating. The confident idealism of the words is undermined by the reader's writhings.

Strange sounds are, it is claimed, the mutterings of the dead?

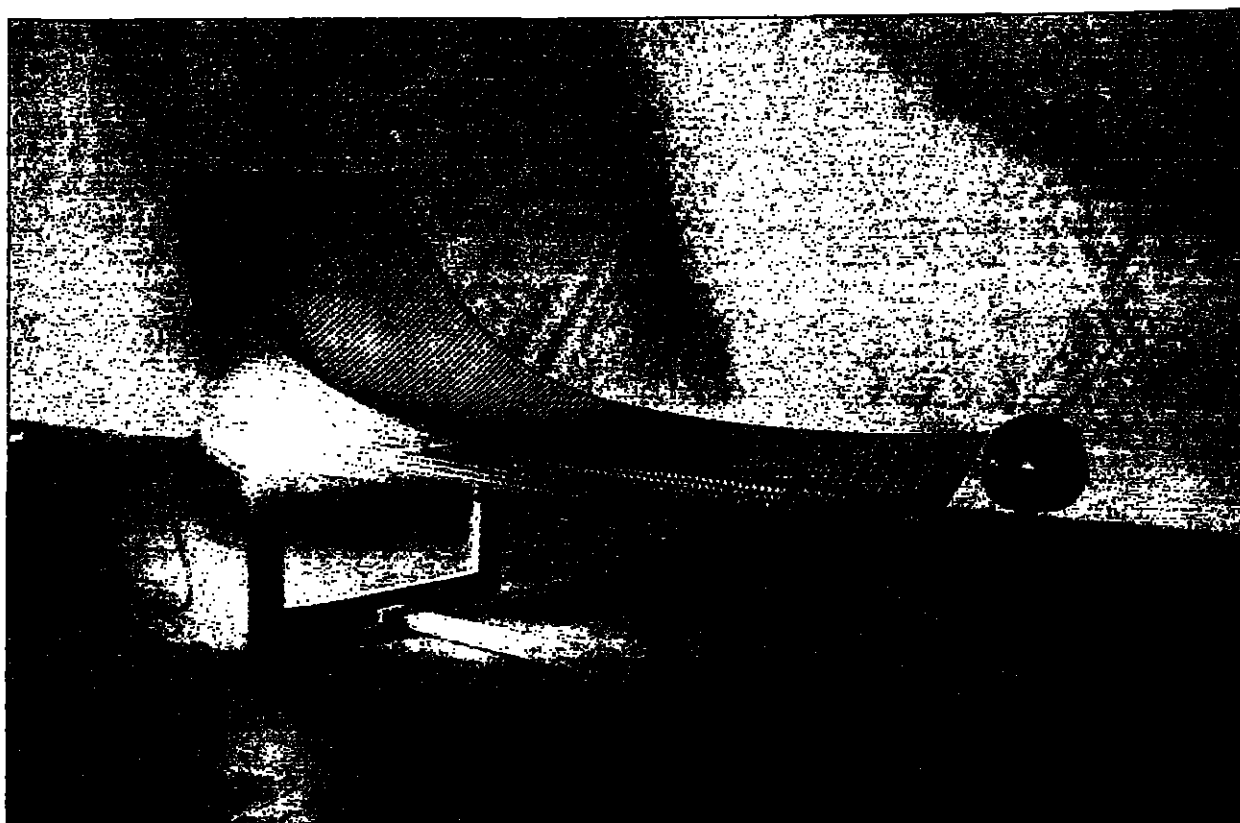
Throughout the show, Sterbak arouses expectations only in order to confound them. Hair sprouts at chest-level from the chemise de nuit dangling so seductively from its hanger. The back of a man's head establishes an imposing presence but then, at the top of his neck, discloses the bar-code stamped like a convict's mark on his skin. In a screen projection called *Sisyphus III*, a powerfully built male figure finds himself encased in an aluminium and chrome structure. He expends all his energies reaching to the incoherent, gassy lurch of the metallic object confining his limbs. Sterbak reinforces its dominance by displaying the

structure, empty and waiting for its next occupant, on the gallery floor. Against the odds, the exhibition does not seem unendurably gloomy. Even the macabre dress of raw steak suggested that Sterbak has a well-developed sense of the absurd, and the endless strivings in *Sisyphus III* are leavened by the humour inherent in their futility. The man is athletic and poised enough to earn our respect as well. On some level, Sterbak admires his agile persistence, his absorption in the task of coping with the unsteadiness and confinement.

In a recent video work, *Condition*, she even raises the hope of escape. Tracked by an incessantly moving camera, a man staggers round a deserted airport filmed in bleak, grey monochrome. His body is attached to a wire-mesh object on wheels, curving away behind him and hampering his movements. We hear his breath on the sound system, increasingly harsh and beleaguered. The swirling mobility of the filming contrasts ironically with his burdened figure, and at one point he dwindles into invisibility as the camera races away on a joyride. Near the end, though, he manages to throw off his appendage. Abandoned on the empty track, it suggests that Sterbak is moving towards a rather more optimistic view of the human predicament.

Susan Hiller, whose contribution to *Rites of Passage* launched a rasping assault on the senses, is also staging a retrospective. At the London Tate last year, she used four video projectors, quadrophonic sound and interlocking video programmes to bombard the viewer with the violence of Punch and Judy shows. Now, at the Tate Liverpool, she reveals the full extent of her range in a very substantial, beautifully installed survey that deserves wide attention.

The continuity of Hiller's interests, conveyed in such a striking variety of ways, is revealed here more clearly than before. For more than 20 years, this American-born artist has lived in London and dedicated herself to reclaiming overlooked aspects of our culture. Early on, she amassed an astonishing collection of seaside postcards showing apocalyptic waves crashing against the shore. Typically, Hiller called the series *Dedicated to the Unknown Artists*. And she later made one of her largest, most commanding works from plaques memorialising forgotten dead of heroism. Found in a London park, the plaques have been photographed and arranged on the wall in an imposing cruciform sequence. An ordinary bench stands in front of them, inviting us to sit down and listen to a tape on which Hiller talks of memory and death. But the most moving parts of *Monument* are the inscriptions on the plaques themselves, many recounting with grave simplicity the deaths of children drowned while attempting to save a sibling or friend. The plaques are elegantly designed, and flanked by floral borders in a sinuous art nouveau style. But Hiller lodges among the plaques a photograph of graffiti exhort-



Jana Sterbak's literally electrifying *Seduction Couch* (top) and Susan Hiller's installation *At the Freud Museum*

ing its readers in smudgy capitals: *STRIVE TO BE YOUR OWN HERO*. The act of uncovering the images in *Monument*, and giving them new, suitably elegiac form, lies at the centre of Hiller's concerns. But the Liverpool show proves that her method of manifesting those interests has always been admirably unpredictable. Her most powerful and mysterious works are presented in darkened rooms, where she asks the viewer to suspend disbelief in surprisingly demanding ways. Large circles of coloured light, in red, yellow and blue, are projected on to a wall in *Magic Lantern*. As they intersect, swell, shrink and separate, the after-images are spookily matched by sounds. Hiller chants some of the time, but the strangest passages come from voices recorded by the Latvian psychologist Konstantin Raudive, who insisted that he was able to tape the disembodied mutterings of dead people.

While she is aware of implausibility inherent in such claims, Hiller refuses to discount them altogether. Obsessed by the way culture so easily leads to curtailment and "a form of partial picturing", she is prepared to entertain a belief in phenomena which others often dismiss.

The most spellbinding work on view, *Belshazzar's Feast*. *The Writing on your Wall*, starts with the simple flickering of video-projected flames. A child's voice can be heard, trying to describe the activity in Rembrandt's explosive painting of Belshazzar. Encouraged by the words, we find ourselves reading figures into the flames. And then the focus shifts to apparitions appearing on television screens late at night, after programme transmission has finished.

Whispering on the sound-track, Hiller reads out testimony from people who insist that they saw such phantasms. As if in response to their words, the flames in the video take on larger and ever more ghost-like forms. Are they manifestations of the dead, or warnings of an apocalypse as terrible as the one confronting Belshazzar? Leaping up the wall like tongues of fire, these irrepressible images rejoice in Hiller's willingness to give them the benefit of the doubt.

● Jana Sterbak at the Serpentine Gallery, London (0171-723 9072) until Feb 25
● Susan Hiller at the Tate Gallery Liverpool (0151-709 3223) until March 17

Watercolours make a bit of a splash

When the Society Associated for the Purposes of Establishing an Annual Exhibition of Painters in Watercolours was founded in 1804, it was not so much to rival the Royal Academy as to supplement its activities by offering a forum specifically for watercolourists.

Though Turner was already an RA, the Society of Painters in Watercolour (as it instantly, less cumbrously became) was masterminded by his close friend William Frederick Wells, and Turner remained until his death in 1852 the guiding spirit.

The "Old" Watercolour Society's exhibitions were always grand, and much favoured by Royals even before it became officially Royal in 1881. The very first show, in 1805, was a sensational success, visited by 12,000 during its seven weeks. Rapidly the society went from strength to strength.

Also, it took itself very seriously as a centre of record, especially when Joseph John Jenkins was secretary, 1854-64. He sent out a printed questionnaire designed to elicit fact and anecdote about all members, past and present. After his death his papers were lost sight of until about ten years ago. Now they have been catalogued by Simon Penwick, who has put together the show *Runnige to Your Heart's Content* at the society's home, the Bankside Gallery (until Sunday).

The show concerns not only the RWS, but its parallel organisation, the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers, founded as the Society of Painter-Etchers in 1880 and dubbed Royal in 1888. The intentions of this were similar to those of the watercolour group. The RSPS shares the Bankside Gallery and along with the RWS has a rollcall of

AROUND THE GALLERIES

members that sounds like a *Who's Who* of British art in the last century and a half. *Runnige to Your Heart's Content* (the title comes from an 1853 letter to Jenkins from George Fripp, answering an inquiry about his papers) shoehorns in an amazing number of members from both societies. The show begins with three paintings which were actually in the first 1805 show, and Rigaud's famous, if bizarre *The Genius of Painting Contemplating the Rainbow* (1807), in which, while gazing heavenward, the Genius nonchalantly dips his brush into a convenient cataract right behind him. Later, there is just about everyone you could imagine, from Burne Jones to Sophie Knight, who has just turned 30.

The one person you do not find there, of course, is the tutelary deity Turner, because he never was a member. But happily the gap can be filled very satisfactorily in another historical show, *Harewood Masterpieces: English Watercolours and Drawings* at Christie's (until January 26). This offers a useful London showcase for highlights from the collection at Harewood House. Many impressive examples come from the collection made by Viscount Lascelles between 1795 and 1814. He was particularly helpful to Turner and Girtin, and they repaid him with stunning images of the house and estate, which, though mostly sold in 1855, have been reassembled by the family.

The tradition of patronising watercolourists did not die with Edward; later Lascelles bought or commissioned works by later members of the RWS. There is, for example, a splendidly characteristic piece by Samuel Palmer, as well as a very passable landscape from the hand of Queen Victoria herself. *Bankside Gallery*, 48 Hopton Street, SE1 (0171-428 7521) Christie's, 8 King Street St James's, SW1 (0171-834 9060)



Bizarre: *The Genius of Painting Contemplating the Rainbow* (1807) by Rigaud, at the Bankside Gallery

born in 1871, the German artist Alfred Hermann Helberger lived through two world wars, the rise of Nazism and the Holocaust. He killed himself early in 1946, in the most chaotic period of the Allied occupation, because he could not bear life without his Jewish wife, who died in a concentration camp in 1945.

If to that one adds the dramatic evolution of taste from the Secession period in which he first found fame, and his extensive early travels — in 1924-29, for instance, he lived and worked in Brazil — nothing seems more natural than that he should have slipped from the art world's attention. Until now, that is. At the moment we can have only a partial view of his art, but what there is is extraordinarily impressive. And on the whole it looks remarkably un-German.

After two or three very sober paintings of the 1930s, Helberger suddenly, about 1911, flares into the most brilliant colours. At the same time he evolves a much freer

way of actually putting paint on canvas, influenced above all, one would imagine, by Van Gogh. Obviously important to his mature style was not only the art he had been seeing on his early sojourns in Paris, but the places he was visiting after his discovery of Norway and Spitzbergen. During the First World War, Helberger was an official war artist, and produced some hallucinatory pictures. Some portraits from the Twenties are more sober, slightly redolent of the Neue Sachlichkeit, but we can only guess what impact Brazil had on him. It would be thrilling to find out.

Julian Barran, 42 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-495 0499), until Jan 26

□ The wood sculpture of Katsura Funakoshi makes one realise just how fine the line is between surrealism and realism. His recent work noticeably extends his range. A characteristic work will be a torso, more or less life-size, carved in fragrant camphor wood and painted in a scrupulously realistic fashion. But Funakoshi is emphatically a carver, and despite the meticulously painted surface one is never left in any doubt that these pieces are cut in wood. The grain and texture of wood, not to mention the scent, are very much part of the total experience.

The tradition in which Funakoshi works is not decisively either eastern or western. There is a sort of hallucinatory intensity about the figures' grave and level regard which moves us towards a different world of experience. This time, in any case, there is something more to confirm the inchoate impression that one should not too readily turn one's back on any of them. One of the major

figures proves, on inspection, to have two faces on one head. This figure is also wearing an extraordinary garment which turns it into a mountain, with tiny, perilously sited houses nestling on either shoulder. It is easy to feel the mysterious power of these presences; much harder to explain it. *Anxiety: Juda Fine Art*, 23 Dering Street, W1 (0171-629 7578), until Feb 17

□ Few artists of major stature can have shown so many faces in such a brief career as Christopher Wood. Undoubtedly in his short life (a mere 29 years before he ended, by accident or design, under a train in 1930) he managed to exert a disproportionate influence on the course of British art. Partly it was because he happened to be painting with Ben Nicholson in St Ives when they discovered the primitive painter Alfred Wallis and his associates. But did Wood ever work out a coherent style for himself? On the evidence of this show one may well suspect that he did not. But does that really matter? Whatever Wood set out to do he did with sublime ease and freedom. The paintings perhaps sometimes feel a little undomestic, but the drawings are uniformly (if diversely) brilliant.

Whatever his mystery was, he took it with him to the grave. But the works survive, their ability to tease and enchant still undimmed. *Michael Parke Gallery*, 11 Motcomb Street, SW1 (0171-235 8144), until Feb 2

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

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2 FOR 1 VIRGIN FLIGHTS — SEE PAGE 19



JAZZ

At the Festival Hall, Hugh Masekela leaves it dangerously late to reveal his true talent



POP

The very image of a wry and independent survivor: Mary Coughlan is back on the road

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 1

Simon Callow stages *Les Enfants du Paradis* for the RSC

VENUE: Now previewing at the Barbican



CHOICE 2

Maria Friedman and *The Three Sisters* are sent to Coventry

VENUE: This week at the Warwick Arts Centre

More sugar than spice

Hugh Masekela Festival Hall

All those years of noble campaigning against apartheid have rendered Hugh Masekela virtually crippled. Yet for the first time, he is performing. It was difficult to suppress the thought that we were listening to a grandmaster who was content to coast on his reputation as the godfather of South African pop.

In his decades of expatriate touring and recording, Masekela has fashioned a timeless style, part African, part Afro-American. That fine balance between two continents and two cultures — so fruitful on the recent live album, *Hope* — was precisely what was missing in the early stages of this concert. Close your eyes and shut your ears to the inky, right-on sentiments of the audience, and the lumbering, four-square rock rhythms were more redolent of South Ruislip than South Africa.

Kwazi Shange opened proceedings with a drum solo which had all the subtlety of mid-Seventies Cozy Powell. Lawrence Matshiza seemed determined to prove that axe-hooping posturing knows no frontiers. To hear the musicians churn out this homogenised fare was as dismaying as arriving at a barbecue on Table Mountain and having a limp Big Mac thrust into your hand.

As for Masekela, the "Hello, London" patter, the old jokes about the British accent and the even older chestnuts about the British weather belated a certain lack of originality, to say the least. His flugelhorn playing, too, seemed unusually unimpassioned, until he briefly gave way to guest Zulu vocalist Busi Mhlongo. After



The first half of Masekela's concert was more redolent of South Ruislip than South Africa

her departure he and his musicians seemed transformed, with Shange and Matshiza beginning to deploy a brisker pulse woven from supple, ever-shifting rhythms. Khaya Mahlangu, whose tenor and flute soloing had been the septet's one strong suit earlier on, grew ever more robust. Masekela's playing made a

striking contrast to the music and stnew of Mahlangu's tenor. Not an outstanding improviser in a technical sense, he makes a relatively small number of notes do the work for him, reworking phrases with infinitesimal variations. As more revellers joined the party at his feet, he slackened the tempo for his shimmering monologue-cum-rap on

Simela, his unadorned account of the coal train carrying migrant labourers to the mines. With most artists, such stark polemic might sit uneasily among the infectious dance material. Masekela's vision is broad enough to embrace both extremes of the human condition.

CLIVE DAVIS

POP Back to prove a point

IT IS ten years since her career began in earnest, and Mary Coughlan seems to be back where she began. In 1986 she financed, in the face of record industry indifference, her own debut album *Tired and Emotional*. It was to make her name. Now she is touring again with another independently produced record, *Live in Galway*. In between she signed to (and then fell out with) a major record company, and earned comparisons with Piaf, Peggy Lee, Bessie Smith and K.d. lang.

Coughlan's success has, however, depended on her evocation of gutsy independence, her image as a wry survivor. It was never just her voice, her choice of songs or her personality that set her apart, but the way she com-

Mary Coughlan Theatre Royal, Norwich

bined all three to become an Irish version of her hero Billie Holiday. Coughlan discovered a bohemian cocktail of jazz, blues and Celtic folk, and that recipe remains for this tour.

The mood in the first half is subdued. It begins with the languid *Lazies*. *Girl* and Jacques Breil's *Hearts*. They are carried off with professional ease, but little passion. Only as she tackles *Magdalen Laundry*, a song about sexual hypocrisy, does she become involved. Clinging to the microphone stand, she shifts from husky whisper to full-throated anger.

She brightens considerably after the interval, with the upbeat *Just a Friend* and the down-to-earth *I Want to Be Seduced* — "I wouldn't mind a man who wouldn't mind seducing me". Each tune receives lavish but discreet support from her musicians: Conor Barry (guitar), Clarian Wilde (saxophones) and Trevor Wright (keyboards). But still Coughlan remained strangely reticent. At every opportunity, she retreated to the back of the stage, and sometimes when singing her hands were thrust into her pockets, like a reluctant schoolgirl forced to perform in front of the class. Her voice, however, evoked the same determined woman who proved the record industry wrong a decade ago.

CHRIS PARKER

JOHN STREET

Driving home under the influences

THE programme notes included a list of ten Austrian guitarist/violinist Wolfgang Muthspiel's favourite records. Glenn Gould playing Brahms and Bach, Edvard Varèse's *Arcana*, Miles Davis's *Notefit*, Prince's *Parade* and the Beatles' *Abbey Road* — all featured, alongside Muthspiel's assertion that "openness", combined with "a compositional structure beyond the usual derivatives most often heard in today's young lions' music" is his trio's watchword.

As an indication of the extensive musical territory available to the trio, and a guide to the methods it adopted to explore it in two enthralling hour-long sets, the notes were spot on. In bassist Marc Johnson, Muthspiel found both delicate subtlety and vigorous propulsiveness. In Paul Motian, he had

Wolfgang Muthspiel Rhythmic, NI

the acknowledged doyen of jazz-trio drummers. The music produced by the three virtuosos — embracing the odd standard (*My Funny Valentine*), the customary bow to Thelonious Monk (*Monk's Dream*), and even a swooning slow version of Lennon and McCartney's *With a Little Help from My Friends* — was rivetingly original, thoughtful and totally absorbing without being forbiddingly stern or esoteric. Firmly structured but allowing just enough space for free individual expression from all three. Muthspiel is in many ways a quintes-

sential 1990s musician, combining a flawless technique honed by classical training with a restless musical imagination as likely to derive inspiration from Bach as from the blues or the Beatles. His playing juxtaposed lightning-fast runs and subtly chiming chords, softly contemplative finger-picking and sudden crashing climaxes, and Motian and Johnson were with him every step of the way. Whether they were wrestling with the complexities of the Stravinsky-inspired *One More for Igor* or stuttering enjoyably through a typically idiosyncratic blues, the trio produced music of stunning textural variety and extraordinary vision, all guided by three of the finest musical intelligences currently operating in jazz.

CHRIS PARKER

JOHN STREET

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Britain pin hopes of striking hockey gold in Atlanta on The Specialist

Crack shot sets sights on Olympics

Andrew Longmore looks at the sudden rise of Calum Giles, the new king of the penalty corner

If Great Britain's chances of qualifying for Atlanta were considerably enhanced by a 4-1 victory over Belarusia in Barcelona yesterday, the long-term prospects for Olympic gold lie in the hands of a dark-haired wisp of a lad whose talent for scoring goals has earned him an exclusive place in the history of the game. Imagine Matthew Le Tissier being sent on to take every free kick inside 25 yards and every penalty, then returning to the bench after each kick. That is the role of Calum Giles, the first specialist penalty corner shooter in world hockey.

Giles' contributions from walking on to walking off last no more than 45 seconds, but what happens in between, more often than not, decisive. In the European Nations' Cup in Dublin last year, Giles played for 40 minutes in seven games, his nine goals lifting England to the bronze medal and prompting widespread ethical debate among the purists, whose suspicion of these gunning-off confrontations between sharpshooter and goalkeeper was matched only by the approval of the crowds. Giles became the central attraction, his choreographed cameos accorded theatrical cheers and jeers. Made for television, in fact.

Yesterday was not one of Giles' more productive days. Of ten short corners, he scored just one, which prompted a bout of head-banging as the final shot was blocked and a raucous sort of "body language, Calum" from the bench. Giles, who plays club hockey for Havant, searches for perfection with

the intensity of the place-kicker in American football. He hits 100 balls a day, 300 in the days before important tournaments, and admits to having developed eight or nine different types of shot, which means that there are probably more. Low right, low left, high right, high left, feint right, go left. The exact spot for the shot is chosen by an assistant coach positioned high in the stands and relayed by radio to the touchline. Sometimes, as in Britain's opening goal yesterday, he will be used as a diversion.

On average, teams expect to convert a third of their short corners into goals. Giles believes that he can score as often as he misses, a shift in ratio that could have profound effects not just on Britain's chances in the summer but on the tactical development of the game. Teams are working away like mad to stop giving away penalty corners because they're so frightened of him," David Whitaker, the Britain coach, said.

For the moment, at least, the arrangement works well both for player and team. Until the rule on substitutes was altered two years ago, allowing rolling replacements from a 16-man squad, Giles' career had stalled on the fringes of international selection. In open play, Giles was considered too volatile, too much of a loose cannon; yet, with only a goalkeeper and four defenders between him and the satisfying crack of ball against backboard, his waywardness was transformed into a deadly blend of power and deception. When the idea of using a specialist corner shooter was



Giles drives another short corner towards the Belarusia goal yesterday

proposed last summer, Giles outscored Ian Jennings over three days of corner-taking to secure the role at the age of 23.

"Ever since I was a boy, I've wanted to get into the international team and get to the Olympics, so I'll do it," he said. "This role suits my character. I'm very single-minded. I'm able to focus on exactly what I

have to do and I've always loved scoring goals." Whitaker's main fear is that referees are becoming wary of Giles' reputation. "They're thinking: 'They have this man on the bench. I'll play safe rather than giving them the penalty corner'," he said. "Certainly, Britain's use of Giles has not met with whole-sale approval, despite hockey's

desperate search for publicity and cash. "They are quite within their rights to do it, but I don't like it and nor do many of the coaches," Roland Oldmans, the Holland coach, said. "It's not good for the game. My players have to practice passing, tackling, dribbling, he just has to practise one thing. It makes a difference. He has showed it."

Thompson ends lean spell with a flourish

Great Britain 4
Belarusia 1

FROM SYDNEY FRISKEN
IN BARCELONA

HAVING drawn their opening two matches, Great Britain finally got into their stride in the men's Olympic Games qualifying hockey tournament here yesterday with a deserved, if much-needed, victory over Belarusia. Though a good performance in the opening stages became rather patchy after the interval, Britain had already done enough to ensure that they would not fall behind in the race to reach the Games proper in Atlanta later in the year.

An early onslaught paid rich dividends as Britain went two goals ahead in six minutes. Wyatt scored on the rebound from the day's second short corner and Giles quickly added another from a similar award.

Thereafter, Nick Thompson, on the left wing, proved to be the matchwinner, scoring two goals to end his lean spell. His first came from a scramble in the fifteenth minute and he, Mayer and Hall could all have increased the lead before the break but for fine saves from Eldemenko, the Belarusia goalkeeper. Though Britain led in the 52nd minute, Thompson scored again nine minutes later.

The win left Britain sharing second place in the tournament with Holland and India, Spain staying top after a goalless draw with India.

Results and table, Page 40

Journey into inner space

Space Fiction: Calling Mission Control, Radio 4, 2.00pm.

Human beings' exploration of outer space is giving way in science fiction to their exploration of themselves. I believe this is a fair summary of the eminent SF writer's contributions to John Gribbin's second programme about man (and, increasingly, woman) whizzing about between the planets. Sude McKee explores the soap opera yielding to the space opera, based on human relationships rather than technology. Paul McCauley, who edits a science fiction encyclopedia, takes that vision a couple of million miles further. He predicts an SF future in which Jaxons of space meet existential challenges. It is a far cry from Jules Verne's Moon-bound boys viewers clinking their wine glasses inside a bullet fired out of a gun.

Schools: Listed Ginn Lewis, Radio 3, 2.35pm.

Few fanfares are blown by the media for BBC Schools Radio on Radio 3, weekdays at 2pm. Whenever I have a chance to hear the programmes, I am most impressed. They are made with the same skills as the best non-school programmes. Particularly praiseworthy are the drama productions, often based on well-known books. Last term, there were fine versions of *A Christmas Carol* and Kevin Crossley-Holland's *Beowulf*. Michael Coleman's *Glenn Lewis*, that concludes this afternoon, is a head-spinning SF comedy about a feared invasion by earthlings of planet Sigma Six. The script fairly crackles, and the cast is hand-picked.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
<p>FM Stereo, 4.00am Chris Warren 8.30 Chris Warren 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Farnham, incl at 12.30-12.45pm Newscast and 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl at 5.30-5.45 Newscast and at 6.00 The Net 6.00 Evening Sessions 6.00 Cling Film with Mark Kennedy and Wendy Lloyd 10.00 Mark Kennedy Wendy Lloyd 10.15 Mark Kennedy Wendy Lloyd, incl at 12.15pm The Net</p>	<p>All times in GMT. 5.00am Europe 5.30 Europe 6.00 Newscast 6.30 Europe 7.00 News 7.15 Frenchman's Creek 7.30 New Ideas 7.50 The Planets 8.00 News 8.10 Faith 8.15 Concert Hall 8.20 News in German 9.15 Just a Minute 9.45 Sport 10.00 Newscast 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Frenchman's Creek 11.00 Newscast 11.30 Drama, The Vast Islands of Puffin 12.00 World News 12.05pm Business 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Pick of the World 1.00 Newscast 2.00 News 2.15 The Net 2.30 Hil 3.00 News in German 3.15 On Screen 3.30 On Screen 4.00 World News 4.15 The Net 4.30 News 4.45 Europe 5.00 Europe 5.30 Business 5.45 Sport 6.00 Newscast 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Empirical evidence of our past mistakes

Britain's colonial history is not really my subject, despite the fact that I spent a formative year working in an office where one wall was entirely covered by a map of the world. Now and again our proprietor would wander in and stare wistfully at the huge expanse picked out in red. Then, with a shrug of his distinguished head and a quiet sigh of "happy days", he would stalk out again, ready to renew battle with our huge expenses. Pretty soon, they too were picked out in red.

I digress. The point I was trying to make is that when it comes to our colonial past, I am pretty much a blank sheet of paper, which is why *Hidden Empire* (BBC2) has quickly become unmissable. Each week I arrive in ignorance and each week I have to grovel wiser and a little sadder. For the stories definitely do not fit into the category of "our finest hour".

Just how objective these accounts are, a blank sheet of paper is hardly in a position to judge. Certainly, some of the recreated dialogue bestowed by what BBC2 describes as "black film-makers", does tend to reduce us Brits to cruel, bloodthirsty buffoons but when you are dealing with the 600 killed and the Morant Bay uprising (22 killed directly, up to 1,500 executed in the aftermath) that is probably fair enough.

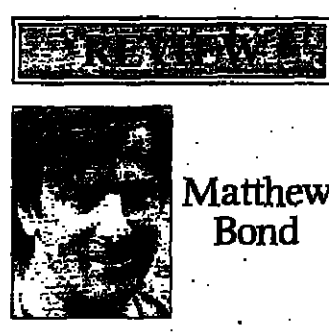
Last night's story concerned just one death — that of Noor Inayat Khan, the first woman radio operator to work behind enemy lines during the Second World War. How this high-born Sufi Muslim came to die in Dachau was an extraordinary story. The manner in which Gabriel Beristain, the director, chose to tell it was pretty odd, too.

Previous films have mixed dramatic reconstruction with narra-

tion and archive material. Beristain added one extra ingredient — an interview with Leo Marks, who as head of codes for Special Operations Executive, taught Khan. To say she left an impression on him is an understatement. More than 50 years on, Marks was still entranced. "She was a very beautiful pupil."

Very beautiful, very talented and very unsuited to life as a British agent. Her father, a distinguished musician and mystic, taught her never to lie. So when she was eventually betrayed to the Gestapo, silence, with its inevitable consequence, was her only option.

But too often Marks's mesmerising recollections and the dramatic reconstruction (Leah Sereeni was suitably bewitching as Khan) appeared confusingly at odds. Both told the same story but at different speeds. The fact that Beristain had



Matthew Bond

done so little to resolve the two accounts (at times his editing actively encouraged the differences) left us with more questions than is normally considered polite in factual programming.

Best not to ask any questions at all when it comes to *Goodnight Sweetheart* (BBC1), especially not the one about how a sitcom can possibly work when it is based upon a time-traveller with a girl in

each decade. The improbable fact is that it does, with the latest series rising to new heights thanks largely to its creators, Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran.

Very skilfully, they have established Gary (Nicholas Lyndhurst) as that most rare of romantic heroes — a lying, two-timing cheat. Last night, however, was a competence time, from the moment Gary started glowing to the nodding Ron (Victor McGuire): "I have the gift of time travel, a lucrative business and the love of two terrific women."

Right on the first two counts but spectacularly wrong, it emerged, on the third. Not content with their fly-by-the-night relationship, both Phoebe and Yvonne (terrifically played by Deriva Kirwan and Michelle Holmes) turned against him.

Phoebe's concern was understandable. In his 1940s, double-breasted jacket, Gary is looking

more and more like a very tall Adolf Hitler, which cannot make the ideal date in war-torn London. "How do you describe our relationship?" she asked, worried that his nocturnal visits were spurred only by a need for "a bit of the other".

"Deep, tender, unique?" So the words bloody awful don't spring to mind? He feared no better with Yvonne, who had taken advantage of his repeated absences to investigate local nightclubs.

Duly chastened, Gary re-

solved to redouble his romantic efforts — in both time zones. Slightly worryingly, last night's episode rather lost its normally imaginative way with a fancy-dress party finale that veered dangerously towards slapstick. But even the most superior sitcom has its off-moments.

By contrast, the normally reliable and watchable *Cutting Edge* (Channel 4) is in danger of having

an entire off-series. So far in 1996, it has tackled the well worked subjects of car-ringing and sexual harassment. Last night it turned to 1963 and — surprise, surprise — the Great Train Robbery. At this rate it won't be long before someone from the trading standards office insists it is rechristened *Rusty, Blunt Edge*.

I married a Great Train Robber was billed as our first opportunity to hear from Ronnie Biggs's first wife, Charmian, and we did indeed spend a fair amount of time in her emotional company. "I still get a lump that comes up and makes me a bit tearful," she said of her former husband, who abandoned and humiliated her more than 20 years ago.

But we also spent a lot of time in the all too familiar company of Biggs, Brian Reynolds and Inspector Jack Slipp. A case of been there, done it, didn't get him extradited. Not so far, anyway.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (58930)

7.00am Breakfast News (CeeFax) 2908588

9.10am Kilroy (s) (2744149)

10.00am News (CeeFax) and weather (2729439) 10.05

Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (5881238)

10.30am Good Morning (s) (580522)

12.00pm News (CeeFax) and weather (5027217)

12.05pm Pebble Mill (s) (5253232)

12.50pm Regional News and weather (13905878)

1.00pm One O'Clock News (CeeFax) and weather (22675)

1.30pm Neighbours (CeeFax) (s) (54022304)

1.50pm Banquet (2314149) WALES: 1.50pm Dad's

Army (7683120) 2.00pm Knots Landing (126566)

3.05pm Timekeepers. Quiz (s) (5482033)

3.30pm Arts in Your Pants (s) (1766304) 3.50

ChuckleVision (s) (1706188) 4.10pm Free

Willie (CeeFax) (s) (5211651) 5.35pm Run

the Risk (CeeFax) (s) (9748033)

5.50pm Newsworld (CeeFax) (4111255)

5.10pm Grange Hill (CeeFax) (s) (7362246)

5.35pm Neighbours (508781) N.I.: 5.35pm Inside

Ulster

6.00pm Six O'Clock News (CeeFax) and weather (781)

6.30pm Regional News Magazines (753) N.I.: 6.30

Neighbours

7.00pm Holiday. Jill Dando tries a self-catering

holiday in a Norfolk. Sandra Ghaith visits

Malaysia; Kirsty Young joins a young-at-

heart cruise down the Nile; and Monty

Dodd gets away from it all in Salsola, on

Portugal's Estoril coast (CeeFax) (s) (5894)

7.30pm EastEnders. Pat hides herself away and

Roy can't seem to do anything right (CeeFax) (s) (217)

8.00pm Great Ormond Street. Documentary series about

the children's hospital (CeeFax) (s) (2014)

8.30pm Head of the Class. Sit-com with Penelope Keith

and William Gault (CeeFax) (s) (1145)

9.00pm Nine O'Clock News (CeeFax), regional

news and weather (2859)

9.30pm Men Behaving Badly. How to Dump

your Girlfriend. With Martin Clunes and

Neil Monaghan. Tony is serious about

Deborah but first he has to get rid of his

old girlfriend. (CeeFax) (s) (20120)

WALE: 9.30pm Week in Week Out (20120)

10.00pm The X-Files. Fearful Symmetry. Two

FBI agents investigate the paranormal (CeeFax) (s) (349155)

10.40pm Omnibus. The Theft of the Century.

The story of the theft and recovery of

Edward Munch's *The Scream* (148878)

N.I.: 10.40pm On Air 11.00pm Omnibus

12.00pm FILM: Travelling Man 2.00

Weather WALE: 10.40pm Man Behaving

Badly (57385) 11.10pm Inside Story

(733120) 12.00pm FILM: Head Over Heels

(57550) 1.30pm News (294947)

11.30pm FILM: Head Over Heels (1979) starring

John Hodge and Mary McCormack. Drama

about a man who falls for a woman while

she is temporarily separated from her

husband. When she returns to her family

he becomes obsessed with winning her

back. Directed by Joan Micklin Silver

(96964) 1.00pm Weather (1511427)

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Video PlusCode system, call 0800 121212 or visit our website

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BBC2

6.00am Zone Business and Work (56101)

6.30am Going Solo (58583)

7.00am Breakfast News (CeeFax) (5071233)

7.15pm Laidie (s) (3195101) 7.40pm Teenage

Mutant Her Turtles (s) (7259858) 8.05pm

Blue Peter (s) (5020472)

8.35pm The Record (s) (9483507) 9.00pm The

History Men (s) (543217)

9.05pm Daytime on Two: Lamepress

(5074236) 9.25pm See You, See Me

(5064472) 9.45pm Watch (3135858) 10.00pm

Playdays (5890507) 10.25pm Come Outside

(311491) 10.45pm The Experiment

(4195183) 11.05pm Space Ark (502675)

11.15pm Clementine (5453052) 11.30pm

Ghostwriter (4694) 12.00pm See Hear!

(10255) 12.30pm Working Lunch (48526)

1.00pm Teaching Today (20217) 1.30pm

Showcase (1764238)

1.40pm Hotch Potch House (s) (5404452) 2.00pm

Jumpin' Jangle (s) (58441743)

2.10pm The Andrew Marr Show (s) (5426556)

3.00pm News (CeeFax) and weather

Westminster with Nick Ross (CeeFax) (s) (7149120) 3.55pm News (CeeFax) and

weather (5105743)

4.00pm Today's Day (s) (948) 4.30pm Ready,

Steady, Cook (s) (830) 5.00pm Esther (s) (4472)

5.30pm The Village (507052)

5.55pm My Village (232897)

6.00pm Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (577472)

WALE: 6.00pm Heartbeat High (535533)

6.45pm Local Heroes (455101) 7.15pm Rugby

Union: Swansea v Pontypridd (2227518)

9.00pm 9.30pm Food and Drink (3101)

6.25pm Heartbreak High. Teen drama (CeeFax) (s) (475491)

7.10pm The Ren and Stimpy Show. Animation

(CeeFax) (s) (160526)

7.30pm Local Heroes. Birmingham. A series

celebrating the unsung heroes of science

and invention. Among this week's stories

is that of John Barber, who patented the

gas turbine in 1971 (CeeFax) (s) (5859)

8.00pm Pound for Pound. Advice on making

your money work for you (1976)

8.30pm Food and Drink. Featuring a Sicilian

cheese cake, and South African wines.

(CeeFax) (s) (2491)

9.00pm Whatwether Happened to the Likely

Lead? Comedy with James Bolam and

Rodney Bewes (s). (CeeFax) (3101)

9.30pm The House: Horse Trading.

(CeeFax) (s) (147930)

10.20pm The Chauffeur's Tale. Chauffeur/butler

Robert Alderson with a personal view of

Barbara Cartland (s) (268168)

10.30pm Newsnight. (CeeFax) (282410)

11.15pm Seinfeld. American comedy series.

(CeeFax) (s) (730033)

12.05pm The Midnight Hour with Lesley

Riddoch (s) (581383)

12.30pm 6.00pm The Learning Zone

5.45pm Pottery of Miracles (1981)

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Grange Hill

BBC1, 5.10pm

The school drama enters its 19th series with

no sign of diminution in either bite or

energy. Episode one opens in challenging

style with the hijack of a school bus. This

turns out to be fiction, but one eagerly

watched by the pupils of Grange Hill and

thus going straight to the heart of the debate

on television and violence. Reunions have

been a staple of the series and it re-emerges here in

the person of a cocksure little horror called

Wayne, all too convincingly played by Peter

Morton. At this rate young Morton will one

TENNIS 40

WOODFORDE AND
HINGIS PASS
TEST OF SPEED

SPORT

TUESDAY JANUARY 23 1996

Fowler and Collymore included in England's forward thinking

Liverpool pair
strike chord
with Venables

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

YESTERDAY signalled the beginning of the end for Terry Venables, the England football coach. It was his first squad get-together, in Markov, since he announced that he would stand down after the European championship finals. If his mind was already on matters of a litigious nature, as it will be from July onwards, it did not show. It was football business, as usual, at Bisham Abbey.

For Robbie Fowler and Stan Collymore, the Liverpool forwards, yesterday signalled the beginning of the real thing. Tangible reward for a blossoming Anfield strike force, begging Ian Rush's pardon, that has amassed 17 goals in a sequence of nine unbeaten matches.

Venables watched them in the 5-0 defeat of Leeds United on Saturday and subsequently invited them to his Football Association retreat, on the banks of the Thames in Buckinghamshire, for a three-day course in all things England. Plenty of theory and plenty of practice, another bonding session to create harmony and comradeship before Venables's final fling.

Even the lack of a match to aim at — the next England fixture, against Bulgaria, is not until March 27 — failed to dampen his enthusiasm. "It's obviously better to have a game, but we know the championship draw, and we know the three teams we will be playing, so there's a lot we can work on," he said. "Although we're still five months away from the tournament, we've got three or four sessions between now and then. It's just a question of keeping it interesting, keeping them ticking over."

Of the probabilities and

possibilities for Euro '96, Ferdinand, Lee, Howey, Stone, Platt and Anderton were sidelined, nursing a variety of ailments. Paul Ince, having now settled at Internazionale, in Milan, and been recalled to the squad, joined in only the warm-up session before succumbing to a back complaint. Redknapp, missing since mid-November because of injury, looked sprightly.

Nothing is certain, though; nobody is in and nobody is out. Venables's open-door policy remains until the cut-off



Venables: businesslike

point at the end of May, when he makes his final selection of 18 outfield players plus three goalkeepers. Hence the inclusion of Fowler, 20, whose only previous senior experience was as a guest at training; and Collymore, 25 yesterday, who played in the Umbro Cup matches against Japan and Brazil in June, for 77 and 11 minutes respectively.

For Collymore, it rubbers stamps his rehabilitation, mentally rather than physically, from the moan-and-groan stage that he went through after moving from Nottingham Forest to Liverpool for £8.5 million. His general dis-

quiet was not helped by an indiscreet, tell-all article in a football magazine.

"I had a chat with Roy Evans [the Liverpool manager] and he made it clear he still wanted me to play for the club," Collymore said. "I made it clear I wanted to play for the club, too. Maybe I talked too much. I'm now keeping a bit quiet on that front and just getting on with it."

For Fowler, it is no more than a natural progression, from Rush's precocious sidekick at Anfield through to the England Under-21 side — and now beyond. "The partnership with Stan is going well," he said. "Of course, it can still get better, but we're quite happy with how it's going at the moment. With Ian Rush on the bench, you've got to keep playing well."

Venables has been impressed. "They're developing a very good understanding," he said. "Robbie has always been on the edge of the squad, but he's got some formidable opposition to get past. The door is still ajar, as I've always said it was."

He is equally happy to welcome back Ince, after an absence of more than a year. "I knew it would take time for him to settle in Italy," he said. "Now that he has turned that corner and is playing well out there, I can make a more accurate assessment of him."

One issue, though, is not subject to change, whether England fall at the first hurdle or win the European championship. Venables has made his decision and will stick by it, though he has agreed to assist in finding his successor at Lancaster Gate. Asked if there was any room for second thoughts, he replied: "No chance." The man is not for turning.

Italy will be without Roberto and Dino Baggio, Gianluca Vialli and Paolo Maldini for the match against Wales in Terni tomorrow. Mark Hughes returns for Wales.



Collymore, front, and Fowler at Bisham Abbey yesterday after their free scoring forced them into the England reckoning. Photograph: Tony White

Atherton stresses need to regroup

By SIMON WILSON

ENGLAND'S cricketers arrive home today with little time to relax and put their heavy defeats at the hands of South Africa behind them before most of them depart for the World Cup on the Asian subcontinent. Of the 17 players who left Johannesburg yesterday, only Mark Ramprakash, Dermot Reeve and Mike Watkinson will not be heading for Lahore on February 3.

England's final three weeks in South Africa were so lacking in success that the week-long acclimatisation period in Pakistan will now be devoted to intensive practice. The players will be based at the University ground in Lahore.

"We must use the first week in Lahore to pick ourselves up," Michael Atherton,

the captain, said. "We need to build up confidence and get into a groove. The players must get into a decent frame of mind. If we play as we did in South Africa, we have no chance of winning the cup. We must play to our potential. In the past two or three years, we have beaten everybody."

Reflecting on the tour of South Africa, Atherton said that the closing weeks were not a fair reflection of the whole visit. "The Test series was lost in a crazy half-hour in Cape Town and we got into a bit of a rut in the one-day matches," he said. "Our performances slid into mediocrity."

The problem for Atherton and Raymond Illingworth, the manager, who has confirmed that he does not want to tour again, is that every area of England's game must improve if they are to do well

in the World Cup. In the one-day matches in South Africa, the batting failed to gel, the bowling was often expensively wayward in the early overs and the fielding was regularly sloppy.

Most of the players will be allowed to rest during their ten days at home, but not those — such as the two specialist spin bowlers, Richard Illingworth and Neil Smith — who played few of the one-day matches. They will be asked to follow training programmes.

England's opening World Cup fixture is against New Zealand in Ahmedabad on February 14. The other teams in their group, from which four qualify, are Pakistan, South Africa, Holland and the United Arab Emirates.

Muralidharan picked, page 42

McMillan will 'fight for nothing'

Boxers are forever threatening to "fight for nothing", in the other man's back yard or front parlour, to prove a point; but their manager's instinct for putting self interest first has always made them think again. So it was not surprising that Frank Maloney nearly fell off his chair when, a couple of weeks ago, Colin McMillan, the former British Commonwealth, European and World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion, walked into his office in London and offered his services for nothing.

"My ears lifted up at that," Maloney said yesterday. "Is this some kind of gimmick or what, I thought. So I called in [Ed Robinson, his press officer] to record the conversation. In case he reported me to the board of the FBA [Professional Boxers Association]."

McMillan was serious. Although many believe that, at 29, he is past his best, McMillan thinks that he still has enough left in him to win a

Srikumar Sen discovers a former champion
using extreme methods to return to the top

world title. Yet he said that he had not been able to find work since July.

"I have been unable to get a title fight, or any meaningful work for several months," he said. "I like to think that this

may be partly due to the risk I pose to my fellow contenders. However, I fear this has more to do with my refusal to sign myself away for effectively the rest of my career. Accordingly, I am protesting my right to

fight. For my next bout in my home town, Barking, I will receive, at my own request, a purse of nothing."

Maloney, who, as Lennox Lewis's manager, understands politics only too well, signed to put on a show on January 30 at the Broadway Theatre, Barking — a landmark in British boxing history.

McMillan and Maloney will receive no money, but Justin Murphy, of Brighton, McMillan's opponent, and the boxers on the undercard will be paid. Any profit from the show will go to a London hospital and the FBA.

The man whom McMillan really wants to meet is Naseem Hamed, but first he has to deal with the council road sweeper from Brighton. Murphy has had ten contests, of which he has won seven, but he promises to give a somewhat better account of himself than "road sweepers" of the Mexican variety that British promoters used to rope in for young prospects.



McMillan to clear path with Brighton road sweeper

GOLF 40

EUROPE'S MASTERS
LOOK TO FINAL
CUP CAMPAIGN

Ball to sign
defender
after latest
raid on
Germany

By PETER BALL

MANCHESTER City's search for a left back has taken them back to Germany. They have agreed to sign Michael Frontzek, Borussia Mönchengladbach's Germany international, for £350,000.

Frontzek, 30, was expected in Manchester last night to discuss personal terms with Francis Lee, the City chairman, today. He will join Uwe Rösler and Elke Immel on the Maine Road staff, and was recommended to Alan Ball, the City manager, by Immel, the goalkeeper.

The transfer ends City's quest for a left back since the injury to Richard Edgill and the departure of Terry Phelan, Southend United having refused to reduce their £1 million asking price for Chris Powell, City's original target.

Newcastle United, the FA Carling Premiership leaders, have had their bid for Chris Waddle, the former Tyneside idol, rejected by Sheffield Wednesday and Bayern Munich have refused to allow Jean-Pierre Papin, the France striker, to go to St James' Park on loan. "I told Newcastle we still needed him," David Platt, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, said.

That leaves Faustino Asprilla, Parnassos, Colombia striker, and David Batty, Blackburn Rovers' England international midfielder, as Newcastle's most likely targets. Batty is expected to have a meeting with Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, this morning, when the latter returns from London.

Harford was unavailable yesterday, but he is understood to have decided that Tim Sherwood and Batty cannot play together. After being dropped ten days ago, Sherwood replaced Batty during the FA Cup defeat by Ipswich Town, and is now the man in possession. If Batty does go to Newcastle, a fee of around £3 million is likely.

Sunderland received little encouragement in their bid to sign Ian Rush, Liverpool refusing to allow the Wales striker to go to Roker Park on loan, although a concrete offer in the region of £750,000 could persuade Liverpool to release him, if reluctantly. "I don't want him to go, and we will offer him a new contract," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said.

RFU invites
France to
consider
stamping
allegationBy DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD DOURTHE, the young Dax centre who shared in France's win over England on the opening weekend of rugby union's five nations championship, risks suspension if his federation accepts the evidence of foul play indicated on the match video.

Ben Clarke, the England No 8, needed several stitches in a head wound during the first half and, though the Rugby Football Union (RFU) does not intend to cite Dourthe, it has asked the French rugby federation to look at an incident highlighted by BBC's *Rugby Special*, in which Dourthe appears to aim a gratuitous kick at Clarke's head.

André Herrero, the chairman of the France selectors, said that a one- or two-match suspension was possible if the stamping allegation were proved. Dourthe, 21, was involved in a similar incident during the series against New Zealand last autumn and even his profile in the match programme from Parc des Princes last Saturday admits a "temperament that should be better-controlled".

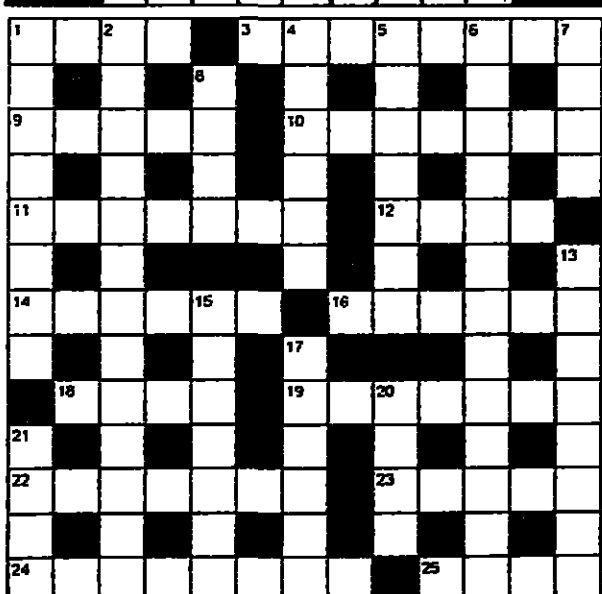
"I spoke to Ben [Clarke] before sending the letter," Tony Hall, the RFU secretary, said yesterday. "He is happy with our action. He did not see who did it and has no impression of how deliberate the injury was."

The incident is out of character with the general improvement in French discipline in international rugby over the past three years and it must be hoped that prompt action now will have a lasting effect on a talented player.

Scotland, victors over Ireland, will name their team tomorrow to play France on February 3. England's management sits down tonight to debate change to the XV to play Wales on the same day. Mark Regan and Mike Catt face an anxious wait.

Neil Jenkins, the Pontypridd stand-off half, may miss selection in the Wales squad of 32 to be named this morning. He is recovering from a broken collarbone, has not played for more than a month and misses the Heineken League match with Swansea tonight.

Weir set to sign, page 42

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 685

ACROSS

- 1 Reach a maximum (4)
- 3 In the open air (5)
- 5 Form, mould; jelly (5)
- 10 Pod flavoured ice-cream, sugar (7)
- 11 Come into (7)
- 12 James — steam-engine pioneer (4)
- 14 Yippee! (6)
- 16 Yours truly (6)
- 18 Patterned in two colours (4)
- 19 Warlike; Roman poet (7)
- 22 Bettered (7)
- 23 Sharp point; flower cluster (5)
- 24 Without cost (slang) (8)

DOWN

- 2 Fastening; tangle (4)
- 1 Work imitating another's style (8)
- 2 Set wrongly in time (13)
- 4 Unseriousness (6)
- 5 Go down plughole; escape (3,4)
- 6 (Boxing) majority verdict (5,3)
- 7 Arabian sultanate (4)
- 8 Father of Cordelia (4)
- 13 Uncomfortably off (8)
- 15 Demanding effort (7)
- 17 Hinder, obstruct (6)
- 20 Water-plant; hurry (4)
- 21 Explosive device (4)

SOLUTION TO No 684

ACROSS: 1 Infern 5 Coda 8 Oval 9 Roof-rack 10 Blimpie 11 Awry 12 Symbol 14 Sleuth 16 Idol 18 Triptych 20 Napoleon 21 Prim 22 Plus 23 Rocket

DOWN: 2 Novelty 3 In-law 4 Martin Luther 5 Corsage 6 Decor 7 Money-spinner 13 Bilious 15 Tactile 17 Drawl 19 Topic

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